

P
919.436
NOR
c1

AUSTRALIA'S RICHEST TERRITORY
FERTILE LAND and BEAUTY SPOTS

North Queensland



1926

Compiled and Issued by
THE QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT INTELLIGENCE AND TOURIST BUREAU
Corner EDWARD and ANN STREETS, BRISBANE

P
919. 436

1925

Transport Facilities—To and From North Queensland.

The following information is supplied to enable Tourists and Travellers to prepare and arrange their itineraries when contemplating the Trip to North Queensland:—

STEAMER AND LAUNCH SAILINGS.

PORT OF CAIRNS—

SAILINGS NORTHWARD TO PORT DOUGLAS AND COOKTOWN—

Particulars of the Time Table and Fares of the twin-screw Motor launch "**Malanda**," carrying passengers and mails in the above service, are given on the inside back cover.

SAILINGS SOUTHWARD TO TOWNSVILLE AND SOUTHERN PORTS—

Wednesday.—The "**A**" Service Steamer of the Australian Steamships Proprietary Ltd. or A.U.S.N. Coy. (joint service) sails direct to Townsville p.m., and proceeds to Melbourne, via Mackay (Flat Top), Brisbane, and Sydney.

Saturday.—The "**B**" Service Steamer of the Australian Steamships Proprietary Ltd. or A.U.S.N. Coy. (joint service) sails direct to Townsville p.m., and proceeds to Melbourne via Bowen, Mackay (Flat Top), Rockhampton (Port Alma), Brisbane, and Sydney.

This service is maintained by two passenger and two cargo steamers sailing alternately. The "**B**" Service Passenger Steamers, therefore, leave at fortnightly intervals.

PORT OF TOWNSVILLE—

SAILINGS NORTHWARD TO CAIRNS—

Wednesday.—The "**B**" Service Steamer of the Australian Steamships Proprietary Ltd. or the A.U.S.N. Coy. (joint service), through from Melbourne, leaves p.m., and proceeds direct to Cairns—average steaming time 13 hours.

This service is maintained by two passenger and two cargo steamers sailing alternately. The "**B**" Service Passenger Steamers, therefore, leave at fortnightly intervals.

Saturday.—The "**A**" Service Steamer of the Australian Steamships Proprietary Ltd. or the A.U.S.N. Coy. (joint service), through from Melbourne to Cairns, leaves p.m., and proceeds direct to Cairns—average steaming time 13 hours.

SAILINGS SOUTHWARD TO SOUTHERN PORTS—

Monday.—The "**B**" Service Steamer of either company leaves p.m., calling at Bowen, Mackay (Flat Top), Rockhampton (Port Alma), Brisbane, and Sydney en route to Melbourne.

This service is maintained by two passenger and two cargo steamers sailing alternately. The "**B**" Service Passenger Steamers, therefore, leave at fortnightly intervals.

Thursday.—The "**A**" Service steamer of either company through to Melbourne, via Mackay (Flat Top), Brisbane, and Sydney, leaves p.m.

N.B.—As the above arrangements are subject to alteration without notice, intending travellers are advised to first obtain verification of the steamer's movements from the local agents.

TRAIN TIME TABLE—NORTH COAST LINE.

Through Train Service—Brisbane and Cairns.

The North Coast Line, connecting by rail Brisbane and Cairns, was opened for traffic on the 10th December, 1924. and the through train service is as follows:—

BRISBANE ... depart	1.45 p.m. Monday ...	1.45 p.m. Wednesday ...	1.45 p.m. Friday ...
TOWNSVILLE ... arrive	5.30 a.m. Wednesday ...	5.30 a.m. Friday ...	5.30 a.m. Sunday ...
Do. ... depart	7.35 a.m. do.	7.35 a.m. do.	7.35 a.m. Monday ...
CAIRNS ... arrive	6.45 p.m. do.	6.45 p.m. do.	6.45 p.m. do.
CAIRNS ... depart	7.35 a.m. Monday ...	7.35 a.m. Wednesday ...	7.35 a.m. Friday ...
TOWNSVILLE ... arrive	6.30 p.m. do.	6.30 p.m. do.	6.30 p.m. do.
Do. ... depart	9.0 p.m. do.	9.0 p.m. do.	9.0 p.m. do.
BRISBANE ... arrive	12.10 p.m. Wednesday ...	12.10 p.m. Friday ...	12.10 p.m. Sunday ...

RAIL FARES (Single)—

	First Class	Second Class
BRISBANE to CAIRNS ...	£6 4 3	£3 11 10
BRISBANE to TOWNSVILLE ...	£5 6 5	£3 3 5
TOWNSVILLE to CAIRNS ...	£1 16 0	£1 2 10

Brisbane, 1st March, 1926.

NORTH QUEENSLAND

Australia's Richest Territory.



Fertile Land and Beauty Spots.

Foreword.

The completion of the Queensland Coastal Railway by the linking-up of Townsville and Cairns has added much of beauty and richness, as well as mileage, to railway tours in the most varied, beautiful, and productive State of the Commonwealth, a State, too, in which amazingly rich primeval scrub lands and other intensely fertile areas extensively await agricultural development.

Atherton Tableland, showing new development, giving also something of their due to Port Douglas and Mossman—the Northern outpost of the Australian sugar industry—has been met by the publication of this illustrated folder in time for the 1926 tourist season.

Actually it is mere tradition or superstition which fixes the period between May and mid-September as the tourists' season for visiting Cairns



SEAFORTH ISLAND, FROM LINDEMAN ISLAND, WHITSUNDAY PASSAGE, N.Q.

The necessity to provide for general distribution descriptive literature and detailed information in relation to the places by the way, also to give an up-to-date picture of the famous Cairns District and

and elsewhere beyond Townsville. The Northern visits which provided the material for this book were made during two midsummer seasons, and, except that in February rains were faithful to tropical

North Queensland—Australia's Richest Territory.

needs, the climate of the Peninsula was found to be not altogether different to that of temperate zones. On the elevated plateaux and on the highlands—as Atherton Tableland and Herberton—it was necessary even then to sleep under a blanket, and to wear a wrap on all evening excursions.

It was found, too, that myriads of new waterfalls were added by the rains, making a beauty so superb as to defy the arts of exaggeration.

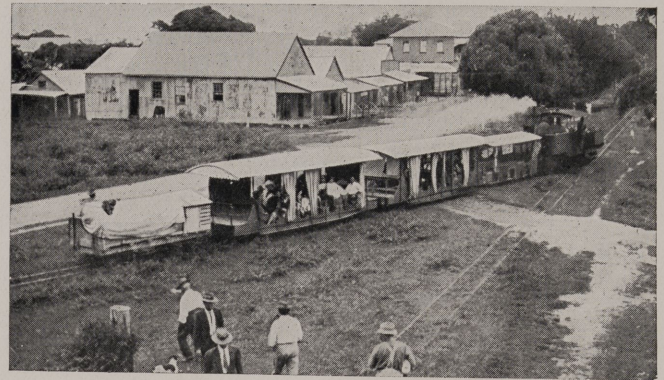
In Australia no more highly favoured region has been turned out of Nature's workshop to acquire tremendous utility under the touch of Nature's trusty servants, Science and Industry. Its uniqueness, too, demands that those who would know Australia thoroughly must intimately confess the magic of its scenery, and intimately know its productiveness, sensing also its possibilities.

All the important booking arrangements, either for land or sea travel, can be made in the metropolitan cities. It is possible now to travel all the way overland, making restful pauses at interesting places by the way.

The beauty of the sea-trip inside the Great Barrier Reef and through avenues of green mountain islands often has been described, and now the complete connection by the Coastal Railway route enables travellers to acquire greatly increased wealth of memory of beauty and fertility.



MAIN STREET, INGHAM, N.Q.



C.S.R. COMPANY'S TRAM, HALIFAX, N.Q.

BEYOND TOWNSVILLE.

The Extended Coastal Railway.

Assuming that visitors from the South will decide to do either the trip northwards or the return journey from Cairns, or both journeys by rail on terra firma, the following particulars should prove a useful guide:—

Passing northwards out of Townsville the railway goes at first through pretty pastoral scenes. This portion of the journey is made by daylight, giving opportunity for close study of the scenery. The way is level, and usually shallow lagoons and pools, bearing waterlilies in several colours, add variety.

After Rollingstone, a refreshment station, has been passed, the landscape takes on typically tropical characteristics. Foliage is glossy, clear streams flow over rocky river beds, and branches hang luxuriantly over the banks.

There are many palms among the bush timbers, and at the homesteads the gardens have many colours in their foliage.

The first important town reached is South Ingham. There enormous shade trees—weeping fig, giant bamboos, mango trees, and pines—make a grand harbour of the town itself. Banana, papaw, and citrus cultivation adds to beauty, and a second growth of cedars promises to reach some day to the girth and altitude of departed ancestral cedars.



FAMILY GROUP—NORTHERN ENTRANCE TO HINCHINBROOK CHANNEL.

Ingham.

The town of Ingham has its East and West, each a pretty part of a pretty town, prettily divided by Palm Creek. Business houses and public offices are in the West End, where also are green avenues of shade.

Ingham is both a sugar and a dairying town. On the lands round about the cattle noticed are of good milking breeds.

Portion of the town of Ingham formerly was a sugar plantation. The soil is black and first-class in quality. A small narrow-gauge tramway connecting with Lucinda Point, the nearest port, runs through the town, passing on through Halifax, one of the most cosmopolitan towns in Queensland.

Lucinda Point is eighteen miles from Ingham—by the tramway route. Boats for the carriage of sugar also go from Ingham to the port.

Sugar Mills in the vicinity are the Victoria Mill and the Macknade Mill. The garden at the residence of the manager of the Victoria Mill is very beautiful—quite a show place, greatly admired by visitors.

The Macknade Mill also offers much interest. It is nine miles from Ingham, on the northern side of the Herbert River.

The Herbert is tidal to Macknade, and is much frequented by motor-boats. Fishing catches there sometimes are very good.

“Alligator Shooting.”

Though correct natural history classification refuses to allow the existence in North Queensland of any large amphibious reptile but the crocodile, the inhabitants of Ingham cheerfully refuse to have local crocodiles, and go “alligator shooting” in the speech and manner of the first unscientifically instructed settlers. There is so little vulnerability in the anatomy of a crocodile that very straight and steady shooting is needed to hit the saurian effectively, the difficulty making the sport all the more enjoyable to keen sportsmen.

Winter is the best season for “alligator shooting.” The amphibians then seek the warmth of the sun, and lie in lazy dozes on the banks of tidal streams.

Duck Shooting.

Duck shooting on the lagoons is another field for the sportsman.

Development and Production.

There is a busy Lands Office at Ingham, and new areas are being selected constantly. The district

North Queensland—Australia's Richest Territory.

is a large one, extending back into grazing country, and lands, according to their kind and situation, come under sugar, dairying, or grazing operations.

A newspaper issuing three times weekly is published at Ingham.

The population of the district is about 7,000.

Surfing may be enjoyed at Cassidy's and Forest Beaches, which are reached by driving road.

Manufacturing industries, in addition to the sugar mills, include high-grade brickmaking, one kiln turning out 9,000 bricks per day.

Beyond Ingham.

Passing on by railway northwards from Ingham through dairying areas and fields of sugar-cane, a study of the railway map reveals that coastwards and not far away is Lucinda Point—a small port which before extension of the coastal railway supplied the nearest gateway to either North or South.

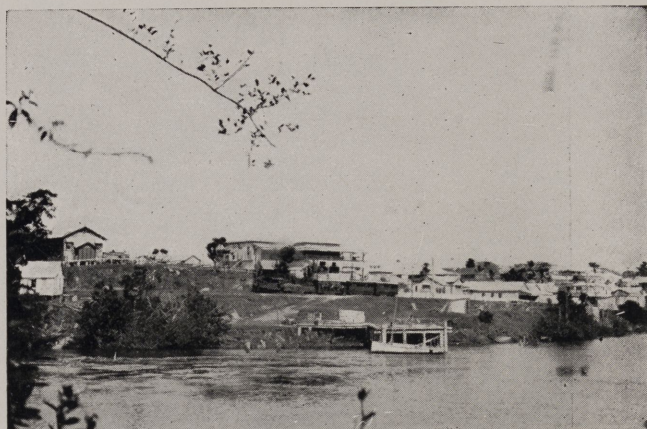
The waterway from Lucinda Point to Cardwell is through the beautiful Hinchinbrook Channel, but the trip by rail, now so conveniently a travel operation of daylight hours, enables closer study of the district's productiveness.



VIEW OF CARDWELL, N.Q.

On the way the Herbert River is crossed, tropical jungle is seen at close quarters, running riot, while steadily advancing cultivation still permits it a span of existence. A present proposal is to build a large jetty at Cardwell to stretch out into deep waters and serve as a shipping place for produce from the rich new agricultural area which, since the building of the railway, is increasingly coming under closer settlement at Banyan. Hinchinbrook Channel, beauti-

ful beaches and islands, suggestive of fabled fairy-lands, are convenient to Cardwell, and ordinarily the roads to such places are suitable for motoring.



A VIEW OF INNISFAIL, N.Q.

Government enterprise at Cardwell includes the establishment of large railway refreshment-rooms. Not far away is the Murray River.

Northward O!

More and more beauty and fertility attach to the way as the railway passes northward. It is doubtful if anywhere in the world there are fairer or richer lands. Agricultural development thereabouts waited for the beginning of railway construction, and much of the jungle, thrillingly beautiful in its tangle of tropical plant life, still remains. The presence of jungle, palms, and the beautiful but too affectionately embracive lawyer-vine, proclaim intense fertility and suitability for agriculture, and in cleared areas the quality of new cane crops show that the jungle's prophecy was wholly true.

Much of the new area was opened up and occupied as soon as railway communication drew near, and is already bearing sugar. The extension of sugar-growing has necessitated the erection of another mill, which is built at Tully.

Tully township is one of the most prosperous in this rich and fertile area. Recently two modern hotels have been built. Within easy reach (4 miles) are Parmeter Beach and other fine surfing beaches. Motor boat trips to the picturesque Family Group Islands and Barrier Reef can be arranged at Tully.



A CROP OF TEN MONTH BADILA CANE, TULLY DISTRICT, N.Q.

Banyan.

"Banyan"! Trees of the species growing adjacently gave the name to a lively stream—Banyan Creek—geographically determined before the crude but ambitious village of Banyan had its beginning.

As is the rule in most Northern sugar areas, the agricultural blocks at Banyan range in size from about 60 to 75 acres. Though the production of the great staple is and will be the chief aim of Banyan settlers, fruit, fodder, and other crops flourish just as easily in that kindly depth of soil.

From Tully to Innisfail.

Traffic on the railway section between Innisfail and Tully preceded the completion of the coastal railway, and much of the adjoining lands now are in occupation and under crop. Some are held by men who served in the A.I.F., and who have given to some of the centres names associated with Eastern frontier force and strategy.

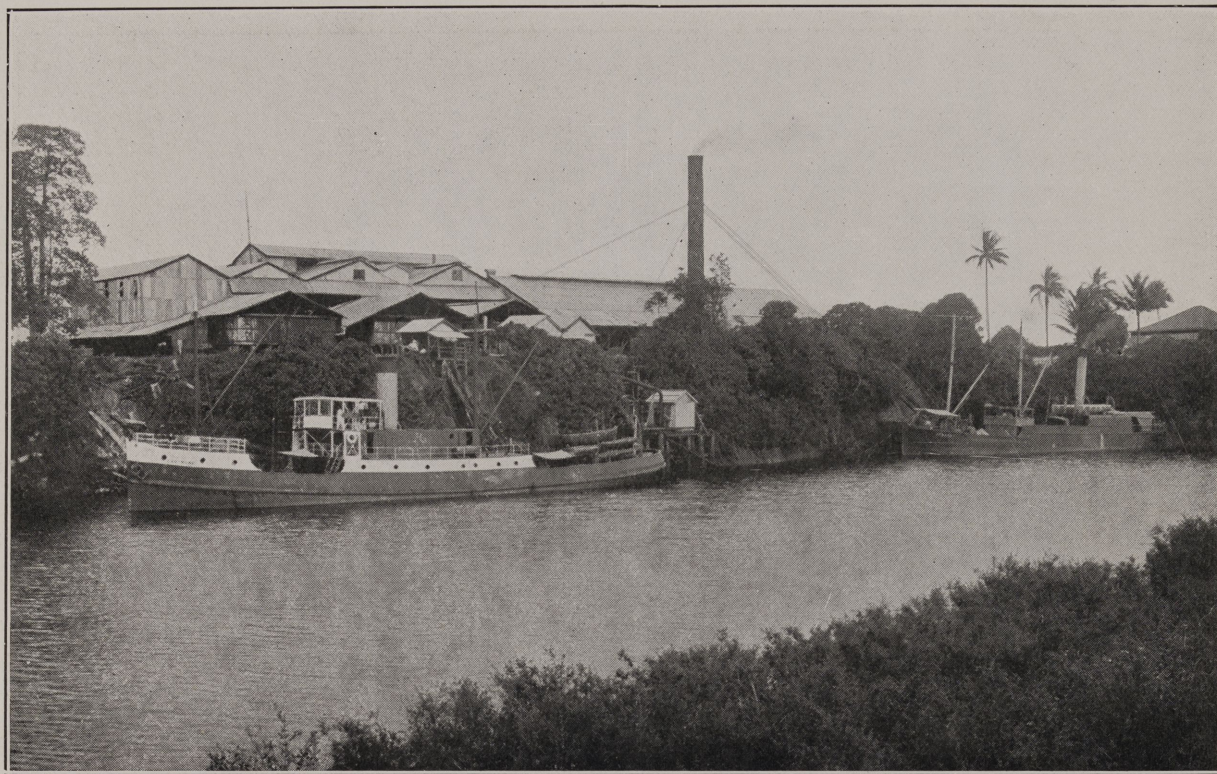
At El Arish is a soldiers' agricultural settlement with all the marks of permanent success. It is a hive of industry, and in addition to the labour of the ex-soldiers themselves the labour of cane-gangs now is utilised.

It is interesting to learn that contentment prevails at El Arish, Silkwood, Jaffa, Feluga, and all through this scene of soldier settlement, and that increasingly it has an accompaniment of prosperity.

Beauty, beauty—all the way to Innisfail and far beyond Innisfail, but it is of Innisfail, "**the million pounds town**"—so particularised because of the value of its sugar output, that this story now must tell.

Innisfail.

Innisfail in Ireland is one of the world's most famous beauty spots, and Queensland's Innisfail was not too much flattered by the re-application of the



GOONDI SUGAR-MILL AND COASTAL STEAMERS, INNISFAIL.

name. Those who know both places proclaim the namesake with its wealth of tropical beauty the worthier of the two.

Hills, valleys, the Johnstone—a river wide and nobly branching—density of cane cultivation, gorgeous colouring in gardens, brilliantly green slopes, red-soiled streets and roads, pleasure boats, and broad though hill-encircled outlook towards the sea, make of Innisfail a place of brilliant beauty as seen from levels, and the beauty is enhanced beyond description as seen from the hills. Abundantly prosperous, the town and district have grown beyond their facilities, but much extension of building to provide accommodation for visitors is planned.

Close to the heart of the town the South Johnstone River is bridged a few yards above its junction with the main stream. The structure has induced suburban settlement, and it is inevitable that Innisfail eventually will become one of the largest towns of the North.

The big railway bridge over the Johnstone at Daradgee was completed and opened for traffic in

December, 1924. It was the final connecting link by which continuous travel from Perth in Western Australia to Cairns and its Hinterland has been made accomplishable, and the date of its opening for traffic is well worthy of record in Australian history. It is a very short distance north of Innisfail.

Every species of tropical agriculture is successfully operated round about the Johnstone's lower reaches, but sugar is the staple crop.

Sugar-mills.

There are two mills close to Innisfail and another at Mourilyan, on the way to Mourilyan Harbour. The South Johnstone Mill near Innisfail is the property of the Queensland Government. The Goondi Mill, also adjacent, is owned by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company. The same company has proprietorship of the Mourilyan Mill. The Goondi Mill is distant from Innisfail about three miles by road and eight miles by river. Its position immediately by the riverside conveniently enables cane to be delivered by the river "carriers" or barges at one end of the mill,

North Queensland—Australia's Richest Territory.

and to be turned out bagged sugar at the other end ready for transport by other carriers down the river to a point at which it can be transferred to the coastal steamers.

Across the river from Goondi is Daradgee, now reached by rail over the big bridge.

In 1925, 197,744 tons of cane were crushed at the South Johnstone Central Mill. It was estimated that the 1926 crushing would be not less than 200,000 tons.

Italian Farmers.

A percentage of the successful farmers in the Innisfail District are Italians, whose success provides an object lesson to Australians who are apt to forget that only those who venture deserve to win. Arriving in the sugar country with perhaps less than £5 in hand, newcomers from the North of Italy go to work in the cane-cutting gangs. The rates of pay for that class of work are high, and in two or three seasons the thrifty Italians save enough to pay the first deposit on a farm. In some cases they combine to secure a farm, work in the fields themselves with other Italians as their employees, who engage on the understanding that they will be paid as soon as the employers receive their money for the raw product. In a few years the full price of the farm has been paid, and the Italian owner or owners then improve the dwellings, and engage in more general spending.



NORTH BRANCH, JOHNSTONE RIVER, N.Q.

Determined young Australians preferably are encouraged similarly to become North Queensland sugar-farmers, and prosperity and honour will be the reward of those who venture. In these days of



FISHER'S CREEK FALLS, INNISFAIL, N.Q.

railway communication they have facilities unknown to the earlier sugar-farmers or to that later generation of farmers who did not begin operations till the indented island labourers had been deported. The success of the A.I.F. men south of Innisfail is guarantee for the safety of their selections or their first and subsequent deposits, should they buy land on terms of time payment.

Banana Cultivation.

With an increased import duty on imported bananas great strides have been made in the cultivation of bananas in Queensland. There are evidences that the neighbourhood of the Johnstone River is par excellence the habitat of the banana. Bush bananas which had not been hoed for years yielded bunches of from fourteen to eighteen dozen bananas, each banana weighing not less than half a pound. Bunches

North Queensland—Australia's Richest Territory.

containing fewer bananas had some weighing 1 lb. Land available for banana cultivation does not infringe on areas intended for the cultivation of cane. Only small areas are required, and banana cultivation as a family industry is being pushed on by a local association which secures tens of thousands of banana suckers—free from disease, and of the kind producing the best bananas for commerce—and provides new cultivators with the quantities required.

Local timbers are used for making boxes and crates in which to pack the fruit. It has been proven that, when properly graded, Innisfail bananas are classed in the Southern markets as equal to the best Fiji bananas, and it is expected that there will be an increased demand for them.

When fairly large areas are acquired, dairying can be carried on in association with banana cultivation.

Some fine banana plantations may be seen close beside the Mourilyan Tramway.

Wherever the land is cleared cattle thrive on the natural grasses, and in Innisfail there is always abundance of milk and cream.

Other Resources.

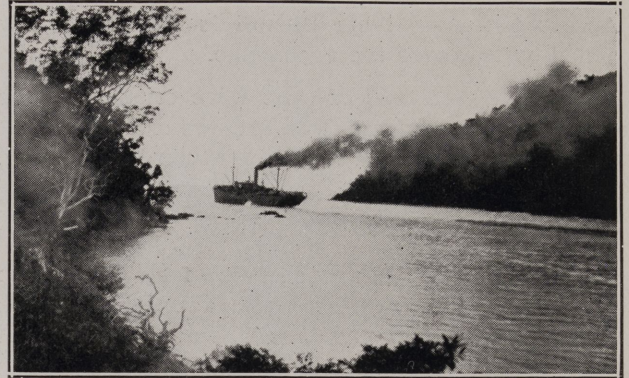
Oranges, lemons, tomatoes, grow to perfection almost without care.



SURFING, FLYING FISH POINT, N.Q.

South of the Johnstone is Maria Creek, where the timber wealth makes a busy industry. There are two large sawmills in Innisfail, at which the valuable timbers of the scrub are prepared for building and other trades. The beautifully grained silky oak,

which is unsurpassed as a material for the development of the cabinet-maker's masterpieces, grows very plentifully in the locality.



S.S. "JUNEE" CLEARING "THE RIP," MOURILYAN HARBOUR, N.Q.

Some Natural Features.

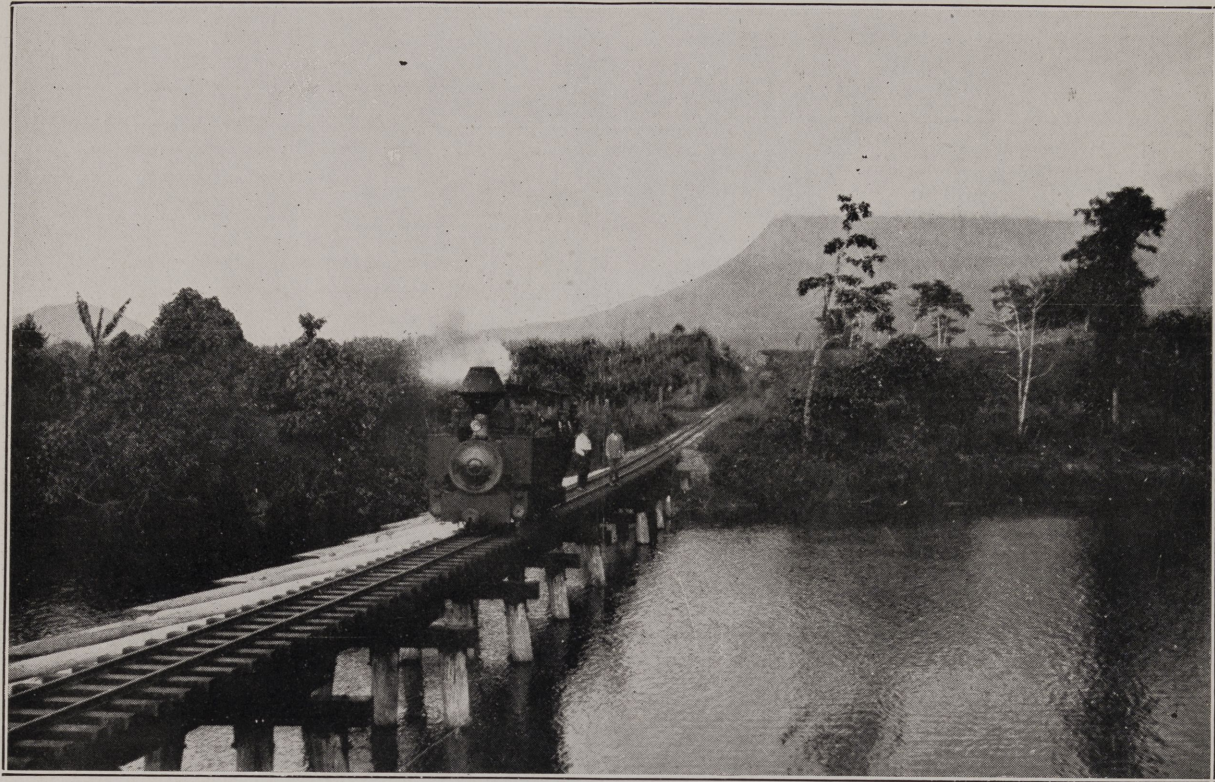
Much will be told of great waterfalls in this booklet, but the pretty waterfalls of the Innisfail district also are worthy of mention. The Fisher's Creek Falls, Miskin Creek Falls, and Mena Creek Falls are fine in their way.

The beautiful flora of the locality includes some rare lily varieties. There are good riding and driving roads to the mills and to many of the plantations, and in each instance these afford glimpses of graceful scenery.

Crocodiles are among the less pleasing natural features, but they now are rarely seen, although experienced hunters contrive to catch, and sell them at a fixed price per foot. Their hides make leather which is handsomely marked and almost indestructible by the process of constant wear.

Boating and Surfing.

Motor-boats and other small craft carry many holiday-makers down the Johnstone River, past many beautiful reaches and picturesque scenes, to Flying Fish Point, where there is a good surfing beach. The Johnstone River near its estuary is alive with motor-boats and white-sailed skiffs when there is a holiday to be kept and Innisfail has a mind to keep it.



RUSSELL RIVER AND BELLENDEN-KER.

Mourilyan Harbour.

Passing out from Innisfail towards the harbour and deep-sea waters is a tramway. It goes by Mourilyan Mill and through Mourilyan township, and arrives finally at Mourilyan Harbour. It carries sugar-cane to the mill and cargo to the small coastal steamers which travel North and South between Cairns and Townsville. For many years prior to the completion of the Coastal, or as it is variously called, the North-South Railway, this tramway supplied the only exit or entry to travellers to Innisfail. Now its uses are fewer, and much public favour attaches to the proposal that there should be substituted for it a Government railway on the standard 3 ft. 6 in. gauge.

"See Naples and die," once was the dictum of travellers who hoped to carry away with them to plane celestial a soul memory of the most beautiful and perfect thing on plane terrestrial. There have been enthusiasts who have applied to Mourilyan Harbour similar phrase with similar meaning.

B

The entrance to this coastal gem is narrow, and there is a rapid rush through it of outgoing and incoming tides, but once entered the extent of the harbour is so much larger than the entrance seemed to suggest, that it is always a source of astonishment to newcomers. Perfectly land-locked except for the narrow strait by way of which it is entered, and bordered by thickly-timbered hills, its waters reflecting celestial blue, the buildings of its settlement clinging to the hillside, its wharves looking almost apologetic for intrusion on scenes so idyllic—of such degree of beauty is Mourilyan.

At dawn and sunset, too, those waters reflect with resplendent result the beauties, always intensely enjoyable to the eye, that accompany the dawning and ending of a tropical day—dawn passing through many lovely hues into a definite and emphatic blue; sunset tinting the hillcrests on the left with red and gold and the right with purple.

The rails on which the miniature train travels to Mourilyan Harbour are only 2 ft. apart, but the



ABBOTT STREET (FROM SPENCE STREET), CAIRNS, N.Q.

interest of the journey atones for the oscillation, and at either end there is a great objective, thrillingly beautiful Mourilyan Harbour outwards and inwards Innisfail, formerly known as Geraldton, in the rainy season the wettest, and all the year round one of the most beautiful, places in Australia.

Motor-cars, hired by arrangement in Innisfail, convey parties to Mourilyan Harbour speedily and at a moderate cost to each member when there is a full complement of passengers. They are also procurable for tours to other points of beauty and interest.

Beyond Daradgee.

It is a wonderful and grandly beautiful way which leads onwards by rail from the Johnstone River at Daradgee to Cairns. The highest mountains of the Coastal Range stand on guard, and the tropical variety and luxuriance of growth which become such familiar but always thrilling features of wanderings in this Peninsula region, are seen in utmost perfection close beside the rails.

Running streams, clear and richly bordered, are as plentiful as beautiful, and at certain seasons the silver of impermanent waterfalls may be seen on steep hillsides.

Babinda, the base of majestic Bellenden-Ker, and the cultivated foothills of stately Bartle Frere, are passed, also the important sugar-milling town of Gordonvale; but assuming that at this stage of the tour Cairns is the objective of travellers, a more intimate description of the Mulgrave River area appears later in this publication after Cairns and its wonderful back-country have been described.

CAIRNS.

Cairns, so named after one of Queensland's early governors, is now so populous and important that it is classed as a city.

Except on the north, Cairns Harbour is surrounded by high ranges which protect it from gales, and the depths of its waters enable large ships to lie snugly beside its wharves.



FALLS ON FRESHWATER CREEK, CAIRNS.

In the harbour, five miles from the town, is a tidal clock beacon which tells on its face the state of the tide, and which invariably awakens the curiosity of the uninitiated. There are other harbour lights to ensure a right course for navigation, but port at any time is easily and safely made.

Sea, mountain, beach, and fertile soil have ensured the city's picturesqueness, and the men responsible for its original planning had the mental grace to recognise tropical requirements of space and shade. The streets are so wide that they gracefully contain avenues of nobly spreading trees, grassy central walks, and arbors.

The Strand or Esplanade is miles long, and for the whole of its length it is shaded by beautiful thickly foliated trees. Conspicuously beautiful among these are luxuriantly spreading weeping-figs, with their wealth of shaded, but always tender, green. Comfortable seats have been placed at frequent intervals, and the beach front is protected by a strongly built retaining wall.

In other portions of the city there are spacious public parks, but the Strand holds pride of place as a restful and salubrious rendezvous. Sometimes bands play under the trees, and family groups sit

contentedly watching the waters of Trinity Bay and the hills which fringe the harbour's southern shore. Near the main wharves are public bathing enclosures.

Anzac Park, small but beautiful and shaded by noble trees, is right on the water front.

The Cairns water supply provides water as pure and clear as any in the world. The district is blessed with numerous mountain waterfalls and busy streams, and Freshwater Creek, the source of the town water supply, has taken first-class honours in analytical tests.

So pure in quality, and coming as it does from silvery cataracts on mountain heights, this water has been found to be especially suited to the purpose of brewing the best and lightest ales. The Cairns Brewery supplies a beverage suited to the climate.

Its proud position in export and import trade has made Cairns well worthy of its expensively built concrete wharves.

It is, too, the first important place of call for boats which come by way of Torres Strait.

The highly productive character of the district guarantees both rapid and consistent increase in export. Sugar, butter, fruit, maize, timber, metals

North Queensland—Australia's Richest Territory.

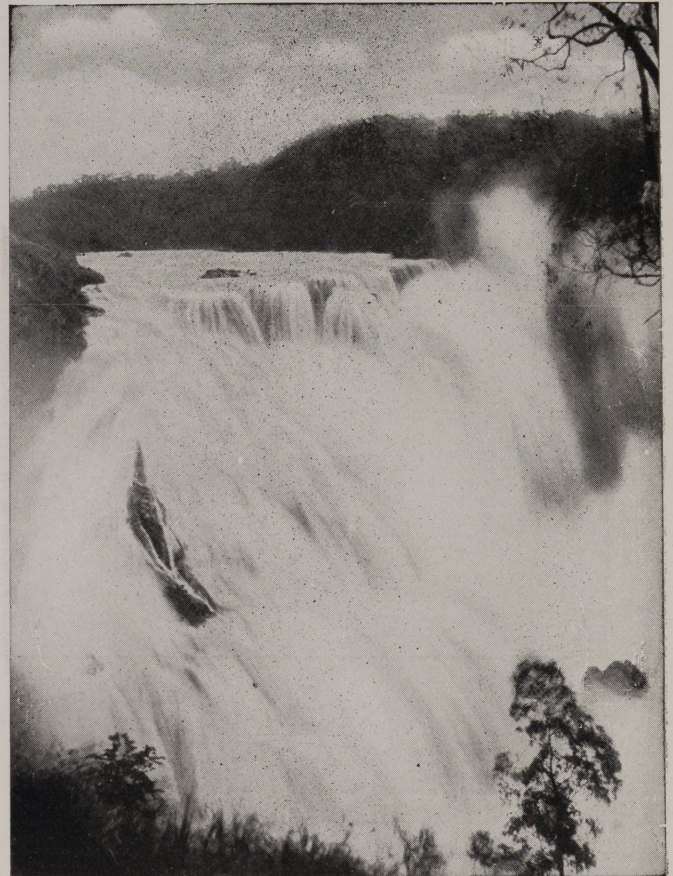
come down enormously to the wharves, and the district's thriving industries necessitate a large commercial and industrial population for the port.

The State educational scheme in local operation embraces primary, secondary, technical, and high schools.

The School of Arts is an institution so well maintained that it would serve the purposes of a very large population. All the leading Australian newspapers as well as many country Press organs are made available to visitors and subscribers. The best periodicals are stocked, and the cool, well-ventilated building has pleasant balconies, easy chairs, tables for games, etc., so that all the requirements of physical ease and mental recreation may be fulfilled. In an upper hall there are a number of cases containing examples of the district's mineral richness, also others illustrative of its vegetable products.



STONY CREEK, RAILWAY BRIDGE, AND FALLS, CAIRNS RAILWAY, N.Q.



BARRON FALLS IN FLOOD, CAIRNS RAILWAY, N.Q.

For six months of the year the climate of Cairns is delightful. In the full summer months it is subject to tropical heat, but every day it is cooled and freshened by trade winds, with the result that there are many pleasant evenings and cool nights. Houses scientifically planned to meet the demand for the utmost comfort procurable in a tropical climate may be comfortably lived in all the year round.

The business industries of the town include timber mills and furniture factories.

There are many large shops and stores, and all classes of trade are represented.

Street and household illumination is supplied by the Cairns City electric lighting scheme.

There are large public halls and picture theatres. In the Cairns Tropical Theatre, the city possesses one of the largest and most modern buildings of its class outside the capital. Many unique features have been introduced in its construction, the cost of which was £20,000. It has seating accommodation for 3,000 people.

North Queensland—Australia's Richest Territory.



GREEN ISLAND (15½ MILES EAST OF CAIRNS), AN ELEVATED SECTION OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF.

The Cairns City and Shire Councils, Chamber of Commerce, Harbour Board, Hospital Committee, and other public bodies demonstrate the activities and forethought of the right men in the right place.

On the water front and in side streets are many charming homes, which stand in gardens luxuriant with brilliant foliage and flower.

Two daily newspapers are printed locally.

There are gloriously beautiful bush roads for riding and driving parties.

An ocean beach resort at Double Island Point is reached by driving road. By arrangement motor cars or motor omnibuses will convey passengers. Meals and other accommodation are available.

Turtle Bay and Green Island, very popular places for surfing and picnicking, are approached by motor launches. Oyster Cay, near Green Island, has been selected by the Great Barrier Reef Committee as the site for its initial boring operations to test the structure of the reefs of this vast coral sea. To the scientist and tourist it affords a splendid location to explore the wonders of the Barrier.

The inlet which so amply and safely serves as a harbour is 16 miles in length.

The wharves which lie close beside the business

centre are very substantially built, and connected with the railway. Undoubtedly those who have been responsible for the planning and progress of the town have been content with nothing less than compactness and completeness, and have visioned the greater Cairns that is to be.

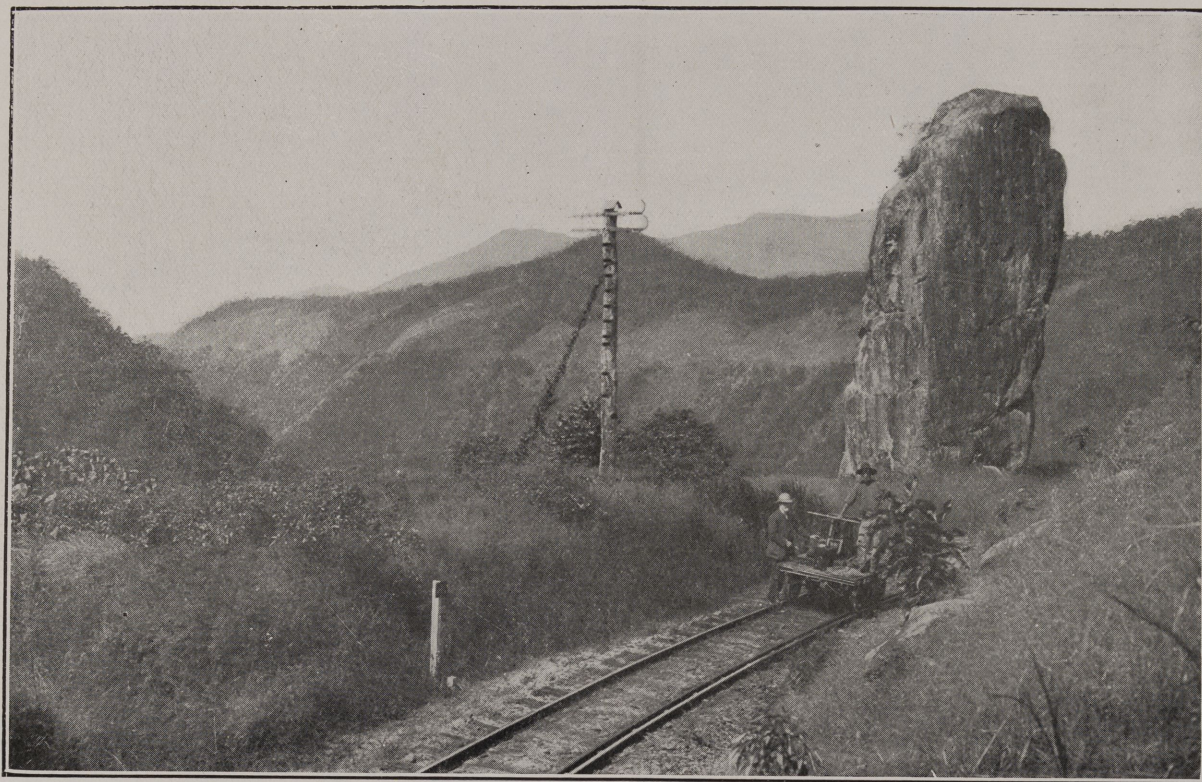
Golf links controlled by the Cairns Golf Club, bowling-greens, tennis-courts, parks, and playing-fields illustrate the athletic tendencies of the population.

Local Publicity.

A locally published booklet supplies fuller particulars concerning interesting excursions, fares, automobile charges, &c.

Export Trade.

The report of the Cairns Chamber of Commerce for 1925, shows that the timber trade has maintained an important place in the activities of the port. Timbers for cabinet-making, as maple, have been largely included. There have been increased exports from the Atherton Tableland, the chief products of which are maize, butter, and bacon. In the last week of 1924 a cargo consisting of several thousand tons of maize was despatched to Old World ports.



PASSING ROBB'S MONUMENT ON THE ASCENT OF THE CAIRNS RANGE.

Sugar Production.

The approximate value of sugar production in the Cairns district for 1925 was £500,000 or more.

Exports during a number of years have included—

Antimony,	Maize,
Bananas,	Marsupial Skins,
Bark,	Meat,
Bismuth,	Molybdenite,
Bismuth-Wolfram,	Sheep Skins,
Butter,	Scheelite,
Coffee,	Silver-Lead Ore,
Copper Ore,	Silver-Lead Bullion,
Copper Matte,	Sugar (raw),
Cotton,	Tallow,
Fruit,	Timber,
Hides,	Tin Ore,
Horns, Hoofs, and	Tin Ingots,
Hair,	Tin Concentrates,
Lime,	Wolfram.
Live Animals,	

Mining Activities.

At the date of publication—1926—mining activities

had not recovered from war conditions. The area served by the port of Cairns is rich in all metals, notably the rare and industrial products, but the demand for tungsten-bearing metals has declined. Even so, the value of the metals exported in the last year for which figures are available was nearly £75,000.

Other Facts.

So genuinely progressive is the district, that a compiler of facts fears to quote figures in case that a few months may make them obsolete.

The annual rainfall of Cairns ranges from 80 to 150 inches. Droughts are almost unknown, and one, so-called, which occurred in 1915, was associated with a rainfall for the total year copious enough to have more than satisfied all the demands of the great pastoral districts of the west.

In Cairns on any day at any time of the year representatives of the great Australian commercial houses and agencies may be met busily engaged in



BARRON GORGE, CAIRNS RAILWAY, N.Q.

booking orders. They come and go as regularly as the seasons, and always apparently in great content.

A Grandly Beautiful Route—Over the Range.

Many accomplished writers have attempted to give an adequate pen picture of that portion of the Cairns Railway which lies between the harbour town and the Barron Falls, but none have succeeded so well as to satisfy themselves, or to give to the reader an impression wholly worthy of the beauty and grandeur of the way. Just as there are some joys too deep for words, so are there some scenes so thrilling in their aspect, so divine in recollection, that words, no matter how glowing and enthusiastic, seem to blemish rather than to adorn the beauties which they design to praise. A beautiful scene, too, has many aspects, according to the point of view from which it is seen, the hour or the character of the day.

Presuming that the tourist may make Kuranda—the highland township beyond the Barron Falls—his headquarters, and may travel many times between Kuranda and Cairns, he will find that habit brings no sense of careless intimacy. The mystery will stay, the desire not to miss viewing one item in the

beautiful whole will remain as intense, and the way itself will have new beauties and grander aspects to disclose on each occasion of transit. So much of the impression, too, depends on whether the way is by the side of the gorge up to the hills, or by the side of the gorge down towards the sea.

Almost immediately after Cairns is left on the up journey the way leads by pleasant homesteads, large orchards, or typical bush.

At Redlynch the rich agricultural character of the soil is plainly asserted, and here, as elsewhere along the line, the fresh or deep greens, rich pink, or bright scarlet of the leaves of trees and shrubs set the tropical standard of adornment.

Crotons, caladia, and other foliage plants are seen at their highest state of perfection. Mango and native fig trees are so glorified by shaded tints and density of foliage that even native-born Queenslanders scarcely recognise them in their super-brilliant garb.

Near Redlynch the Queensland Government for many years maintained a garden acreage, known as the Kamerunga Nursery, as an experimental station for the cultivation of tropical crops, fruits, etc. Though not now maintained for that purpose the nursery is still interesting.

North Queensland—Australia's Richest Territory.

Coconuts, bread fruit, jack fruit, tamarinds, lemons, and several varieties of little-known tropical fruits still flourish.

Bananas, coffee, para rubber, dates, vanilla, cinnamon and other spices show a special liking for the soil.

Cotton, kapok, tobacco, arrowroot, ginger, and peanuts have been successfully grown at Kamerunga, and their commercial value as local products proven.

Freshwater Creek, a deep, clear stream with very interestingly wooded banks, associated with shady glens, is crossed en route.

The Barron Gorge.

The famous Barron Falls are 19 miles by rail from Cairns, and the journey to them and to Kuranda, which lies a mile and a-half beyond, is charming all the way. After banana plantations, papaw groves and patches of tangled vine scrub have been passed, the train begins to climb the Range. From the carriage windows passengers look down on pleasant glades and tall timbers. Miles away Redlynch and other villages are seen lying peacefully in valleys which stretch away towards the sea. The sea itself is embraced in the backward view, and a lovelier scene of rural settlement is unimaginable.

The upper cliffs of the overhanging mountains show an unusual redness in their colouring, and all round and about is rarity.

For a time the train dashes in and out of short tunnels, but each return to broad daylight reveals a scenic gem—a brilliant bank of tropical foliage, a riot of tangled creepers and festoons.

Soon the way is borne upon a continuous cutting sheer on the left bank of a wonderfully fashioned and awe-inspiring gorge. The cuttings are brilliantly red of soil, vividly green of verdure.

The way is circuitous, and far ahead its intimate red and green, its overhead heights, its underneath depths and steeps may be glimpsed.

Far, far down below, in a narrow, rocky chasm, the foaming, tumbling Barron River hurriedly takes its way in its eager haste to tell its story to the sea. It tells the story in a loud roar as it goes, but so high above is the viewpoint that the roar comes to the ears merely as a melodious murmur set to a minor key.

Except for the existence of the railway the scene is as wild and grand as it was when only nomadic blacks and wild birds knew of its existence. The opposite bank of the canyon remains as wildly wooded, the stream meets none but natural impediments. The red steeps of the cuttings add to, rather than detract from, the faultless picture.

Fourteen miles from Cairns the train pauses at Stony Creek station, where there are pretty red-roofed structures standing among handsome mango and other beautifully foliaged trees on a tiny plateau overlooking the gorge.

Here, too, are the Stony Creek Falls, crystal clear, falling in lovely volume from a dizzy height above the line, and passing under a picturesque bridge into another series of falls, which eventually mingle with the main waters of the gorge.

Many backward glimpses of these lovely falls are gained as the train passes on over the mileage beyond. For fully 10 miles the way overlooks the grand gorge, and passes along its definite middle edge.

On the way Knight's Falls are crossed at a point where they briefly exhibit a natural level.

Robb's Monument, a high block of granite, named in memory of the man who so faithfully fulfilled the tremendously difficult task of building the railway, stands strikingly beside the line which divides it from its original association with a rugged granite cliff.

Undoubtedly, the tropical character of the gorge makes for intensified attractiveness as compared to some of the widely advertised canyons of colder regions. On the opposite side may be seen the silver gleam of many a miniature cataract. According to the season of the year there may appear patches of white or yellow bloom and rare glimpses of crimson. But the greater part of the living garment which clothes the steeps is darkly green and completely appropriate. It provides sanctuary for thousands of beautiful birds, and, invariably, pure white species fly out of it and beside it.



KURANDA RAILWAY STATION.

A roar of mightily, deeply falling waters and uprising mists of spray proclaim near approach to the Barron Falls.

The Barron Falls.

No photograph of the Barron Falls in flood has ever given them one-half their natural award of grandeur in volume, or suggested more than a fraction of the beauty of their surroundings. For a mile before the waters reach their giant leap they roar and foam as they make their way unevenly over a bed strewn with great boulders. All fury and foam they take their leap of 900 ft. into a swirling pool, and then pass on over lesser leaps through the winding way of the gorge so impressively draped with wild beauty and so eloquent of power.

Here is one of Nature's places which man must never be permitted to disfigure or spoil. Such a scene spiritualises travel, and compels profoundest respect for unseen powers.

C

When absorbing with the eyes the wonderful beauty of the canyon the mind naturally turns to thoughts of its origin, of the sources of its angry stream—those many silvery branches and merry cataracts on highlands and plateaux.

Was the great jagged gash violently made in a once unbroken range, or did it occur by slow erosion and gradual removal of huge beds of rock?

Undoubtedly, the present aspect of the gorge suggests an origin in hours rather than in ages, even though time since has added so much beautiful disguise. A mighty chasm graciously clothed on its sides, and mighty rather than cruel in its depths—such is the aspect to-day of the rocky rent once so violently riven. Sunlight and a celestial sky give the gorge one brilliant class of expression; clouds, greyness, and floating mist another, equally beautiful and addedly mysterious.

No true nature lover will be content to see the Falls only once or twice, but will pass backwards and

North Queensland—Australia's Richest Territory.

forwards several times in efforts to see the whole grand exhibition, and will be well rewarded for his pains. He will, perhaps, on some day of shower and sunshine see the Falls in close association with an arch of prismatic colours rising from their base and appearing to rest almost immediately above their top. He may see them increased in volume by storm waters—their green mosses hidden by foam, their song of victory a nobler shout.

Nature has made bigger things than this gorge and its cataracts, but never one more grandly perfect.

Viewpoints.

Visitors who wish to "do" the Falls and Gorge thoroughly may make their headquarters at the charming mountain village, Kuranda, which is a mile and a-half from the Barron Falls Railway Station. At the Falls a kiosk, with dining-table, benches, and



A GLIMPSE OF "FAIRYLAND," KURANDA.

water tank, has been provided, and there is also a waiting-room for railway passengers. A long series of steps leads down to the foot of the falls, but the

return climb is so difficult that all but the young and active should avoid descending beyond that portion of the way that is spiral and associated with a railing and frequent resting-places.

Mango trees and the magnificently red-blossomed poinciana regia have been planted by the way, and some have reached a luxuriant stage of growth. When the poinciana is in bloom its broad spreading top is a mass of red, and fallen petals make a carpet of red below.



"THE MAZE," KURANDA.

Paths have been made to special viewpoints—O'Malley's Chair, a rough stone seat named after a well-known Australian politician who once made it a throne of genial loquacity, and Lady Robinson's Lookout provide soul-inspiring views of falls, rocks of battlemented aspect, structures not unlike ruined castles, mossy cliffs, and natural fern gardens.

About it all there is a strong accent of the pre-historic. Geology vaguely sets its time limits, and scant knowledge still asks, "How old?" But—

"We ask not of the sunlight,
Nor of the wind, 'How old?'
The legend on the talent's face
Dates not the unchanging gold."

A walk along the railway line to Robb's Monument and beyond makes for greater intimacy with the gorge than can be obtained from a carriage window or observation balcony. From the train the most influential features of the view are the deep-down stream and the opposite wall, except where the curving track graciously grants a backward or forward



TIMBER TEAM CROSSING THE BARRON ABOVE KURANDA, N.Q.

view; but a walk along the railway levels reveals much more of forest-clad precipice, giant chasm, and wild waterway.

Kuranda.

Kuranda has many charms quite independent of its proximity to the Falls. It has its place in civilisation's scheme right in the heart of tropical beauty, yet its altitude assures for it the crispness of autumnal evenings and dew-bedecked bracing mornings even at midsummer. Its roads and buildings stand on rich soil won from virgin scrub, and grassy slopes and closely pressing scrub have preserved its fresh, bushland aspect. Artistic architecture, red roofs, and a wealth of ornamental plants make of the railway station a perfect gem suited to so rich a setting. There are wealth of colour and variety of forms in the foliage of the well tended shrubs and creepers, and immediately below the station flows the River Barron, here spreading shallowly in a wide boulder-strewn bed, but a little lower down merging into a lake-like reach closely

confined in high banks, and seeming to offer a special invitation to rowers and swimmers. There is generally a boat here for the convenience of tourists desirous of visiting a delightful tropical setting on the opposite bank.

But clearings on the opposite bank are few. For the greater part it is clothed in forest, primeval, dense, mysterious and magnetically beckoning.

There are three modern hotels at Kuranda, also private lodgings and boarding-houses. These, as well as the private residences, have beautiful lawns and gardens. The gardens glitter with colour and brilliancy. Gorgeous, highly perfumed flowers, the noble dark-green and dark-red of mango trees, the brilliant variegation of crotons and orchids in full flower, the crimson of poinsettias or poinciana regia, the yellow, heliotrope, pink, purple, and red of flowering creepers, and trailing over hedges and fences the constantly flowering blue convolvulus.

And, as if the flora provided colouring insufficient, butterflies of brilliant colouring and beautiful marking fly among and rest upon the flowers.



DAINTREE BUTTER FACTORY, N.Q.

The grass plots are vividly green, the roads show redly among grassy borders.

A **Butterfly Museum** which contains the constantly replenished collection of Mr. F. P. Dodd provides delight to all who visit it. Nowhere in Australia is there such a beautiful exhibition of butterflies, moths, dragon flies, beetles, and other insect species. Such diversity and brilliance of colouring, such wonderfully delicate and varied marking is almost inconceivable. From giant moths down to tiniest butterfly the specimens ramble, each beautiful in itself, and with its beauty embellished and emphasised by Mr. Dodd's eminently artistic arrangement. Once Mr. Dodd went as far as Papua for his specimens, but found only a few butterflies that were unfamiliar. The woods and dales round about Kuranda are more than rich enough for all the purposes of the naturalist, whose specialties are the rarest and most beautiful of winged insects.

At night at Kuranda thousands of fireflies illuminate the darkness. Often they enter the houses, and it is not uncommon to see half a dozen or more gleaming and reflecting in their broken or circular flights within a sleeping apartment.

Beautiful views surround Kuranda on every side; a climate temperate at all seasons, and never bitterly wintry, keeps its inhabitants and frequenters in a state of radiant vigour.

In such a place anyone but an absolute invalid must become an early riser. The rising mists are ever an interesting study as they drift and roll away before the awakened sun, distorted and shattered into the tree-tops, or sweeping up the hillsides in masses of white fleecy clouds.

Summer visitors often associate with their early rising a river swim and return tingling healthily from the exercise.

Much of the surrounding scrub has been preserved in its virgin state, except that paths or driving roads have been made through it for the benefit of pedestrians or riders. In this jungle with its trees and vines interlacing high overhead in a superb leafy canopy there are many beautiful botanical specimens still unnamed and uncatalogued by science.

There are, too, unfamiliar birds of brilliant colouring. Sometimes a tiny bird with red as its predominant colouring and little larger than a bee



A CAMPING PARTY ON THE DAINTREE, N.Q.

may be seen in the second scrub growths near the river, and tiny as it is there is genuine significance in its warble.

Recreations at Kuranda.

City visitors to Kuranda will miss none of the comforts of civilisation. They will find electric light, hot baths, roof gardens, lounges, refinement of furnishing, cuisine and service, telephone communication, etc.

Tennis courts, croquet lawns, hockey grounds, billiards, and other games assist to while away the hours.

Excursions may be arranged for every day of the week. The Barron Falls and surroundings make a grand excuse for a day's picnic.

On another day visitors may go to Stony Creek Falls by the down train to Cairns, and after spending some glorious hours there, they may return to Kuranda by an up train which arrives in time for dinner.

Surprise Creek Falls also will be found worthy of a special excursion.

Rocky Hill View, Fern Tree Gully, Double Island Mountain, and other trips may be suggested.

An idyllic excursion is that to the Fairyland Tea Gardens, which are distant about a mile and a half up the river, and on its opposite shore. A coo-ee brings a boatgirl across to convey visitors to the natural scrub gardens and arboreal grandeur, amidst which tea is served at rustic tables. The chairs and tables used in the tea gardens are artistically fashioned of scrub timbers. Near at hand are romantic walks, and all who make this excursion declare it to be an ideal outing.

Just below the railway station a rowing-boat waits every morning between 9 and 10 to convey passengers to "The Maze," a natural clearing in the scrub. Morning tea at the refreshment kiosk in "The Maze" usually is associated with this ramble.

Hampers for picnic parties are procurable at the railway refreshment-rooms, or may be made up to order at the hotels.

North Queensland—Australia's Richest Territory.

It happens that some visitors, because of the state of their health or their advanced march on the way of life, desire more than all else, during their stay at Kuranda, rest amidst pure air and beautiful surroundings. To these the comfortable accommodation and the views from the balconies make special appeal.

More active sojourners should enjoy a study of the metalliferous character of some of the cliffs and boulders, or should find a gentle kind of excitement in orchid and fern-hunting expeditions to Rainbow, Jumrum and other creeks.

The lawyer-vine, a pretty climbing cane which has a nasty habit of hooking on to clothing, is another native product which also is at its best, spectacularly, when admired from a safe distance, though it must be told, to its credit, that it has commercial value as a material for use in chair and basket-making.

Cairns Railway continued.

Beauty, richness of soil, and wealth of water remain faithful to the railway for a considerable distance beyond Kuranda. The Barron, forceful and



THE TREE-CLIMBING KANGAROO (MAPPEE MAPPEE).

For right-minded persons the days and nights at Kuranda will never pall, no matter how long may be the stay, and what is seen and enjoyed there will only create zest for enjoyment of the beauties and wonders, the fertility and productiveness which lie inland on the main and branch railway routes.

At Kuranda visitors will learn to recognise and keep clear of stinging-tree, which there, as in the grander primeval scrubs of the interior, aggressively performs the duties of sentinel of the woods. One such tree, specially cultivated for the enlightenment of visitors, may be seen at Kuranda Railway Station.

complaining, flows immediately beside. On its opposite banks are hilly, picturesque farms whose homesteads stand on natural lawns which slope to the edge of the river's bank. Other farms, fertile orchards, and gardens ablaze with brilliant colouring lie beside the railroad. Patches of jungle, vine festooned, and frequently flowering, are so close that their botanical wealth is seen as an open book. The landscape presents a series of undulations and at some distance on either side it is buttressed by high hills. The altitude is not far short of 2,000 ft., and for salubrity the situation scarcely could be surpassed.

North Queensland—Australia's Richest Territory.

But the highest degree of beauty and fertility rarely remains with a long-distance railway throughout its entire length. Almost all the great train routes of the world are bordered or interspersed by belts of desolation. That is not the case with the Cairns Railway; but undeniably the way for a time becomes much less rich and much less interesting, though still of some value as a grazing area, and well watered, and invigorating in its atmospheric quality.

The Barron River is again approached at Biboohra, where there are meatworks, which employ a number of men, and despatch large quantities of meat overseas.

Close to Biboohra a portion of a tremendously large mining area is entered upon.

The salubrity of Mareeba has suggested it as a suitable site for the homes of nomadic workers' families, consequently its population remains permanent. The dry climate and elevated situation make it a suitable place of residence for persons subject to lung or bronchial trouble, and the establishment there of a sanatorium has been suggested.

Mareeba contains good hotels, a fine district hospital, fine moving-picture theatres, and other halls of entertainment.

Halls and leading hotels are lit by electricity.

The streets are wide, some of them having central lawns, and beautiful trees.

A complete electric lighting scheme for the town will be an early undertaking.



PROPOSED SITE, HYDRO-ELECTRIC SCHEME, BARRON RIVER, MAREEBA.

Mareeba.

Mareeba, a town with a mining history, also is situated on the Barron River. Its site is perfectly level, its soil bright red, and its altitude, 1,325 ft., assures for it cool summer nights. It is the chief business centre of the Walsh and Tinaroo mining district, and it also has special importance as a railway junction. From it branches out a line of railway to Chillagoe, which railway also has a branch leading to Mount Garnet, another mining centre. Another railway which branches from Mareeba goes to Mount Molloy, a copper-mining township.

The present water supply is obtained by a pumping system from the Barron River. It is governed by an enterprising Board, which has in view the substitution of a hydraulic scheme, associated with which would be a large artificial lake and pleasure-grounds.

Public baths with dressing-rooms already are provided.

Mareeba is a good sporting town. Wild ducks and turkeys tempt the guns, and there is good freshwater fishing in the Barron.

North Queensland—Australia's Richest Territory.

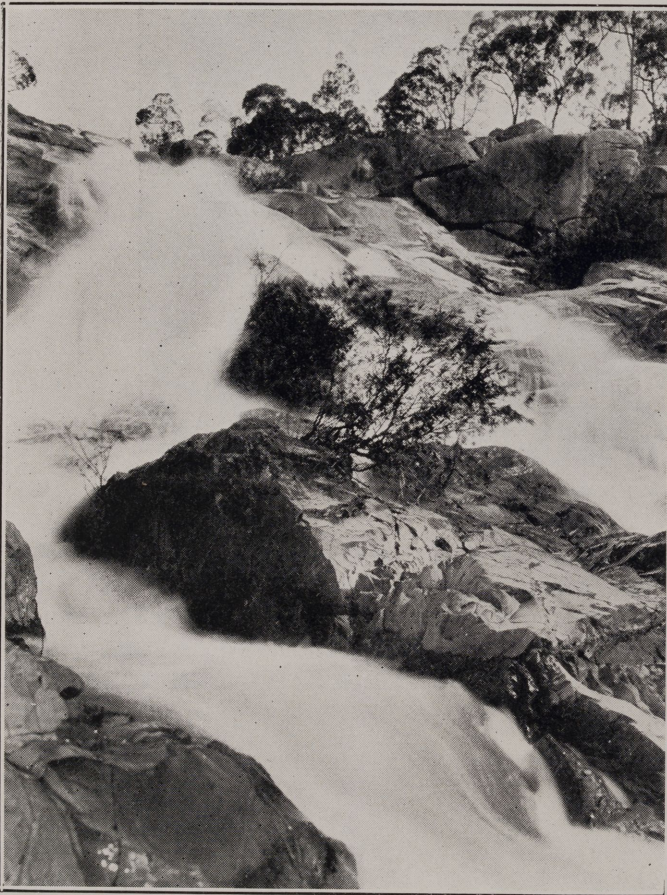
Manufacturing industry is well represented by a large bacon factory, turning out an excellent product. There are also saw mills, a foundry, and brick-works. The roads are good for motoring; cars and drivers may be obtained from local garages.

As the junction of all the Hinterland railways, Mareeba is specially suited for holding big district exhibitions of live stock and agricultural products.

Although the mining history of Mareeba belongs more to the past than to the present, gold is still a district product.

The Barron at Mareeba is broad and usually placid. The area is well watered. The River Mitchell, which has perennially running tributaries, rises in sandy flats within a few miles of the town, and for several miles flows northwards parallel to and within a few miles of the Barron.

The pretty Emerald Creek waterfall is seven miles distant.



EMERALD CREEK FALLS, NEAR MAREEBA, N.Q.



MAIZE ON ATHERTON TABLELAND.

THE ATHERTON TABLELAND.

A great improvement in soil and timbers is noted before Tolga, a junction station within the area of the famous Atherton Tableland, is reached. Dense vine scrubs on gradual elevations advertise rich soil and heavy rainfall. Atherton township is reached a short distance further along the main Cairns Railway.

Atherton's Industries.

"Atherton has only one drawback. That is, the super-richness of its soil."

Such was the enigmatic statement of a prosperous resident. The puzzle was solved when it was explained that the loose character of the rich volcanic soil of the Tableland makes effective road-building very difficult, and that consequently Atherton township is not the cleanest possible place for pedestrians in wet weather. There is so much rain

North Queensland—Australia's Richest Territory.

in Atherton, too, in the regular rainy season that hard roads there seem to be intensely desirable, and undoubtedly a town so prosperous and so rapid in advancement must before long receive the reward of roads good enough at all times for its purposes. It forms portion of Tinaroo Shire, and its shire councillors are practical men who know and appreciate the Tableland's immense basic resources and resultant achievements.

Like most bush towns of Australia, Atherton had its origin in the settlement which grew around the first public-house of call on the bullock-dray or pack-horse track. At that time there were no railways running out from Cairns, and Port Douglas, a harbour further north, was accepted as the export centre. First pack-horse teams and later bullock-drays passed over the tableland, en route from the Herberton mines to Port Douglas, and the main street of Atherton township stands exactly where the old road to the sea-board used to be.

The tableland and township have derived their name from the original Tableland squatter, John



TIMBER TEAM AT KAIRI, ATHERTON TABLELAND.

Atherton, who brought his cattle and horses overland through wild bush ways from Rockhampton, and settled with his family in a scene wildly rich and wholly primeval. He made his home in the more open forest country, close beside which there pressed dense, richly timbered jungle, rising from volcanic soil as rich as any ever born of Nature's angry outbursts. Where once his cattle strayed over a noble, primitive acreage, to-day there are numerous neighbourly farms, modern homesteads, windmills, dairies, agricultural townships, depots and factories.

The Golden Grove Butter Factory at Atherton had a wonderful record of progress. Since its establishment the dairying industry has extended widely over the Tablelands area, and as the town of Malanda, which is on a railway branching out from Tolga, eventually was regarded as being nearer the heart of the dairying area, Malanda instead of Atherton now, to use a local term, is "Buttertown."

As far back as 1917 the Golden Grove Butter Factory produced 778,752 lb. of butter in one half of the year. The 1926 total will be far higher as a result of new lands coming under development.

Many Atherton Tableland farmers first worked under a share system, having no interest in the property, but eventually through their industry became proprietors themselves. New settlers, if they are of truly industrious inclination and trustworthy, can obtain advances from the State Advances Corporation or local salesman.

After new dairy-farm lands have been cleared of scrub, *paspalum* is planted, and perhaps nowhere does this fine fattening, milk-increasing grass grow



MAIZE SILOS AT TOLGA.

North Queensland—Australia's Richest Territory.

to such perfection. The average of an Atherton Tableland farm is 160 acres. Each acre is capable of carrying two cows or two "poddies" (dairy calves advancing to maturity and usually destined for the butcher's shop) to the acre. Pig-raising and dairying here, as elsewhere, go hand in hand.

The best growing weather at Atherton is that of the regular rainy season—January, February, and March. Then the continuous rain and absence of scorching sun suit delicate seed, and growth is so rapid as to appear simply marvellous.

The dairy stock most favoured are Ayrshires, Shorthorns, Illawarras, and Friesians. The State Farm at Kairi has specialised in Jerseys, with a view to proving their special suitability to some phases of Tableland farming.

The original scrub timbers include kauri, maple, beantree, white beech, pine, and cedar—sure proof this of the suitability of the soil for producing various crops. All the ordinary tropical fruits grow to perfection, also citrus fruits and the deciduous kinds usually regarded as peculiar to temperate climates.

Maize Production and Maize Silos.

The whole of the Atherton Tableland produces maize crops of great density and first-class quality. Its history as a maize-growing area is much older than its record as a dairying district. The original scrub clearings were made that maize might be planted, and so crude was the knowledge of the first agriculturists that they burnt valuable timbers without compunction. Of recent years many new areas have been cropped with maize, and production has been encouraged by the erection of three large maize silos for the storage of grain.

The silos are constructed of reinforced concrete and are situated at Atherton, Tolga, and Kairi respectively. Their erection followed the establishment of a Maize Pool. The State Government lent the necessary large amount to pay for the erection of the silos; also guaranteed an overdraft of £40,000 on the 1924 crop. Associated with the silos is a dryer plant to dry the grain thoroughly prior to storing.



LAKE EACHAM, N.Q.

The silos have the appearance of huge nests, and each is divided into four separate silos, 25 ft. in diameter by 70 ft. high. The central space between the adjoining silos is also used for storage, and the total capacity of each of the detached silos is 9,000 tons.

The method of filling the silos is very interesting. The operator standing on the ground can divert from the head of an elevator 104 ft. high the flow of maize to any of the four storage spaces or to the adjoining warehouse, where the previously stored grain is sacked off and loaded on maize trucks in readiness to convey it to the seaboard. The elevators and the cleaning machine—the latter a necessary complement—are driven by an engine.

The establishment of the Maize Pool and the erection of the silos are regarded as a monument to the good work of the Council of Agriculture. As already mentioned in relation to export from Cairns, one shipment of maize in December, 1924, weighed several thousand tons.

More About Atherton.

All over the Tableland lucerne is a safe crop.

Rice has been successfully cultivated on some portions of the forest area.

The Atherton Golf Club has recently established an ideal nine-hole golf-course, and now commands a large and increasing membership.



GIANT FIG-TREES, ATHERTON TABLELAND, N.Q.

The town of Atherton is regarded as the business centre of the Tableland. The Lands Office and other Government offices are there, also business establishments capable of supplying all requirements.

The annual show of the Tableland Agricultural Society usually occurs in October. It is largely attended by visitors from other districts, and much admiration is expressed for the quality of live stock and the dairy and agricultural products.

The town supports two local newspapers.

Sources of Information.

Anyone who may desire further information concerning the undeveloped lands of the Tableland can obtain it by making inquiries in the district Lands Office at Atherton, or at the head Lands Office in Brisbane. There is still good scrub land available for selection, mention of which will be made in the particulars which follow in relation to the Eacham Shire and the Johnstone River Branch Railway.

The Johnstone River Line.

This line of railway branches from the main line at Tolga, and has extended beyond Tarzali into the richly timbered and richly watered Tableland area known as Millaa Millaa—a fertile land of waterfalls and wildness which, since access to it has become more easy, has attracted returned soldiers and other men whose desire was to engage in primary industry.

The town of Tolga is hemmed in by maize lands, usually in a state of heavy bearing. The yield per acre in comparison to that of some of the most famous maize-growing areas in the Southern States is phenomenal. The soil is so good and the rainfall so sure that the density and quality of the crops show little or no variation.

Two tons to the acre is an average maize crop in the locality.

The land devoted to dairying comfortably carries two cows to the acre.

There is a State Farm at Kairi, a short distance from Tolga. There experiments are made by experts with a view to arrival at definite conclusions in regard to the best advice for established farmers and new settlers. The Barron Valley Farmers' Co-operative Society has its headquarters at Tolga, and the Eacham Co-operative Farmers, Limited, also may be addressed there.

Yungaburra.

One of the most popular holiday and week-end resorts in the whole of the Tableland area is Yungaburra, on the Johnstone River line. Between it and Tolga there is typical cleared scrub scenery and every evidence of intense fertility. At certain seasons there is a blaze of yellow blossoms at each side of the line, and at all times the second scrub growth of dwarf cedar assists picturesqueness.

At some places near Yungaburra the original scrub remains much as it used to be. The gaps made by the removal of the largest cedars have closed up, and huge trees of other species spread their branches to make a lofty roof. Fine coteries of orchids, cane and flowering creepers forming beauty's ropes, tree ferns, parasitic and ground ferns, arums of several kinds, make a profusion of beauty.

There are many beautiful and valuable timbers in Eacham Shire. Cedar, silky oak, bull oak, maple, bean, crow's foot ash, walnut, white beech, crow's foot elm, all have a natural home there. One giant



THE FIRST GLIMPSE OF LAKE EACHAM, N.Q.

cedar close to Tula, a station four miles beyond Yungaburra, is a fair representative of the cedar tree as once it so abundantly used to be.

The native fig is plentifully seen in the form of shrubs, vines, and enormous trees with hosts of roots intricately interlaced. The latter variety

“spreads her arms,
Branching so broad and long that on the ground
The bended twigs take root, and daughters grow
About the mother tree, a pillared shade.”

The fig vine is beautiful, but unkindly. It twines its strong, thick stem round a tree trunk, and finally chokes out the life of the column that gave it support. All the native fig-trees have a profusion of fruit, massed in clusters, which, according to its stage of growth, is green, purple, or bright red. With its beauty of foliage and fruit, its widely spreading roof and density of shade, the giant fig-tree claims a rightful place to preservation close to streams, and there is, also, an India-rubber producing species worthy of cultivation.

Yungaburra is a pretty and rapidly rising town. Its streets are wide, and planted with double rows of ornamental shade trees. Around and within it are pleasant, grassy hills of low stature.

On the outskirts the upright timbers of thinned scrubs rise directly alongside the rich *paspalum* grass which clothes the fully cleared areas.

The Lake Eacham Hotel at Yungaburra is replete with comfort and homeliness. It has wide balconies, modern lounges, and dining-halls in which generous milk-jugs and cream bowls suggest, as is actually the case, a large, choice dairy herd as part of the establishment's domestic equipment. The proprietors of the hotel also own bakeries, butcheries, farms, and a cattle station, and the word “prime” applies to all their manufactures and products as served at the Lake Eacham Hotel. A gardener is kept to till a vegetable garden, and in the flower garden the primary colours make a brilliant show among the more modest secondary tints. Quite handy is a nine-hole golf-course.

North Queensland—Australia's Richest Territory.

As well as being a place providing for the requirements of a farming population, Yungaburra rightly is a tourist centre, consequently visitors should learn with pleasure that it is capable of supplying such generous accommodation. A few miles distant from it are the famous and entirely unique Lakes Eacham and Barrine, to which much-travelled tourists award astonished admiration.

There are thriving cheese factories in the neighbourhood of Yungaburra.

The local bacon in its firmness and flavour gives more than a hint of the final fattening of the porkers on maize.

At Peterson's Crossing, which is reached by a short walk from Yungaburra, there is a pretty stream, on the banks of which grow some fine many-columned fig-trees of the giant species previously described.

The Lakes.

The natural surroundings of Lakes Eacham and Barrine have been preserved the better to maintain permanently their uniqueness and beauty.

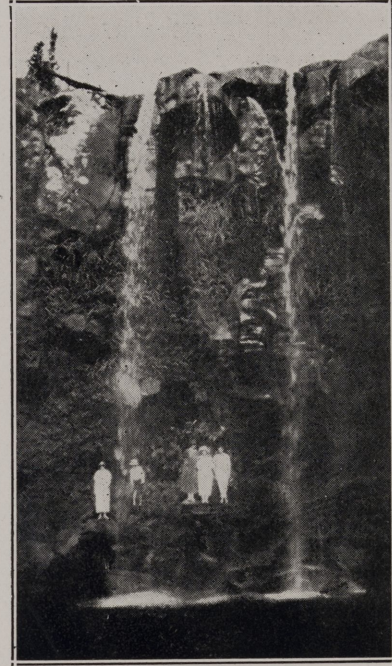
Lake Eacham is four miles distant from Yungaburra, and is reached by a beautiful driving road which leads at first past well established farms and picturesque homesteads, and later through primeval scrub in which hundreds of varieties of birds, large and small, brilliant and demure, talkative and musical, have sanctuary.

The lake is almost circular in shape, and is entirely surrounded by dense scrub timbers and undergrowth growing to the edge of its abruptly rising banks. Its surface is aquamarine in colouring, but its waters are fresh and absolutely pure. They have been fathomed to a depth of 240 ft., with an average depth of 220 ft. That they are contained within a crater is a scientifically accepted fact; that they have subterranean connection with the waters of Lake Barrine, which is miles away, is perhaps mere superstition of the aborigines.

The wild nomadic race which originally roamed the rich tableland had a superstitious dread of the lakes, and of Lake Eacham in particular. Even the civilised blacks of the present period superstitiously dread Eacham, and cannot be tempted by the offer of any reward to enter its waters. Those waters are entirely free of weeds and lily growths. A small species of fish swim in them. They are, in a sense,

the waters of a dead lake, but in their perfect freshness they are totally unlike dead lakes elsewhere.

Eacham is 130 acres in extent; Barrine, out of which flows Barrine Creek, covers a space of 256 acres.



GLEN ALLWYN FALLS, NEAR YUNGABURRA.

No matter how heavy are the rains, or how extended the rainy season, Eacham never overflows, and, indeed, gives little indication of having risen above its normal level. But, oddly enough, campers there in fine weather have measured a regular daily rise and fall of four inches in its surface, and, although the freshness of the water remains unimpaired, it is suggested that the lake must be in some peculiar, unseen way subject to tidal influence. A similar rise and fall is noticed in Barrine.

The aspect of both lakes is entirely beautiful, and the forethought which has preserved intact all their natural surroundings has assured that their beauty shall remain. The scrub road to the lakes enables visitors to gain very close acquaintanceship with the characteristic plants of tropical Australia; there growing under natural conditions in that free and unchecked luxuriance which will endure no gardener's hand.

North Queensland—Australia's Richest Territory.

The cleared grassy space at the end of the drive to Lake Eacham is an ideal spot for picnics. Small boats are kept on the lake, and swimmers find a peculiar kind of refreshment and exhilaration after bathing in the waters.

Whether or not the craters were hollowed at the time that Nature ordained the richness of the surrounding volcanic soil remains one of Nature's secrets. There are other large craters in the Tableland neighbourhood, but they are empty, and visibly stony, except where timbers have clothed their sides.

So far science has given no decided opinion as to the age of the lakes, though many professional and amateur geologists have visited them. Proud as science is, Nature still baulks her in rare places.

"Knowledge is proud that it has learned so much,
Wisdom is humble that it knows no more."

Motor Car Trips.

The visit to the lakes and other spots of interest now are made in motor cars. The booklet published by a publicity committee in Cairns, and which can be obtained in Cairns or at the Lake Eacham Hotel, in Yungaburra, gives explicit information concerning trips of beauty and interest, the time occupied, and the charges.

Johnstone River Line continued.

Added to its current history in agriculture and dairying, the area served by the Johnstone River Railway has splashed sparsely over it a little of the glamour which invariably attaches to metaliferous regions. A few miles from Yungaburra, at Mount Mascot, there is an old gold mine. Near Peeramon, a village further on, there have been



LAKE BARRINE, N.Q.

Before a visit to Yungaburra is concluded, a closer acquaintance with the scrub, which is of a different character to that at Kuranda, should be gained, with, of course, a careful avoidance of stinging-trees and a careful admiration of the handsome but tenacious lawyer-vine.

The interesting phalanges of crowsfoot elm and the colonising habit of banyans soon reveal themselves.

Chillies, passion-fruit, tomatoes, cape gooseberries, papaws, and a species of raspberry grow wild on the borders and wherever openings have been made, and have added much variety to the birds' daily bill of fare.

discoveries of wolfram. But the industrial evidences beside the route are of the soil only. Timber mills, dairy herds, cultivated fields, and cream cans testify in relation to the predominant sources of wealth. The reflection that this is merely a portion of the Atherton Tableland's 3,000 square miles of deep rich volcanic soil is inspiring.

The elevation of the Tableland averages 2,400 ft., and from the fact of its early morning and evening crispness it produces fruit and crops which are quite outside the tropical category. Side by side with such crops grow, in their highest degree of quality, fruit and crops that are essentially tropical.



MILLAA MILLAA FALLS, N.Q.

Paspalum, rhodes grass, and clover clothe the cleared areas in which well-bred cattle graze.

At Kureen the show places are the timber mill and Mr. Heale's model farm. The homestead at the latter is a charming house expressive equally of taste and comfort. In the covered and concrete-floored milking-yards only the choicest breeds and most expert methods have place.

At Malanda, the next station, is the district's large and ever busy butter factory. There, too, Mr. English has his choice shorthorns and hundreds of their prize ribbons.

Millaa Millaa.

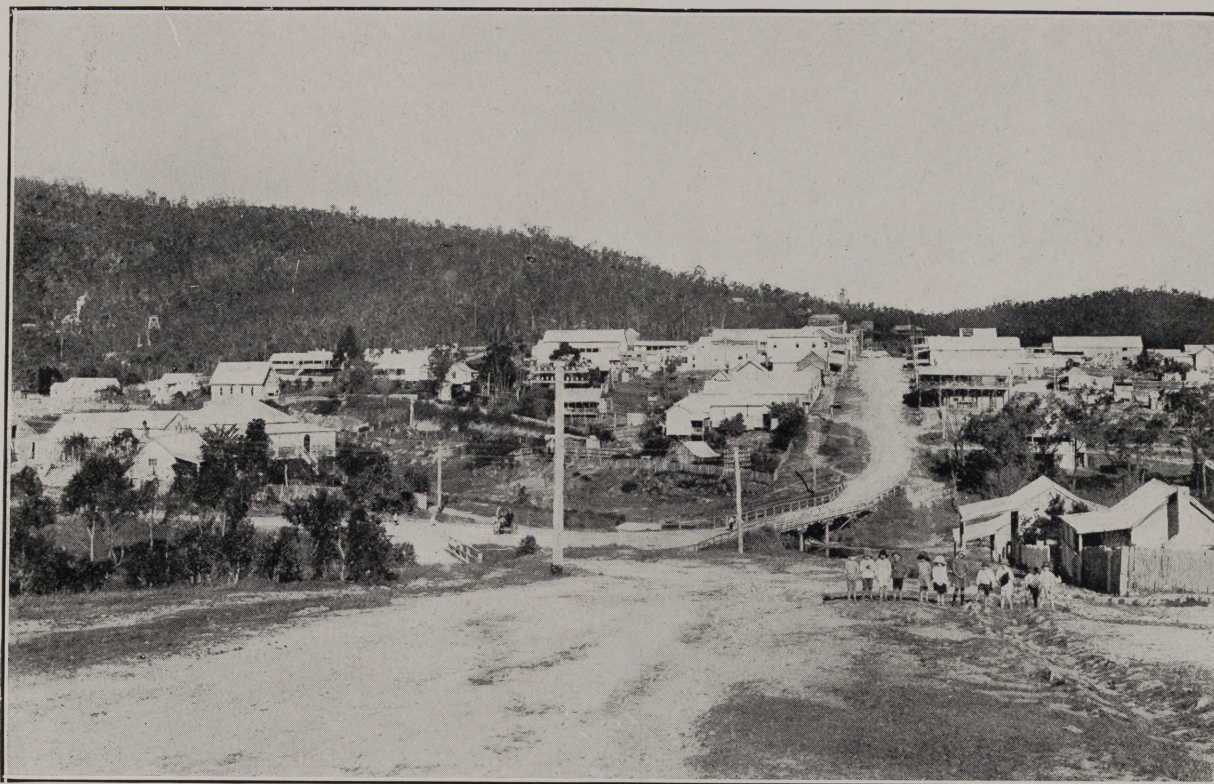
Beyond the rising township of Tarzali, this branch line goes on to Millaa Millaa, the newest settlement in the area. A number of returned men of the A.I.F. settled on the Millaa Millaa and Beatrice River land, which was specially surveyed on their behalf. The energy and grit of previous settlers was evidenced by the manner in which they, nothing daunted, conveyed their cream by pack-horse when the rough

wheel tracks to their farms became impassable as the result of continuously wet weather. Now railway connection and the nearer location of a butter factory make their life much less arduous.

There is magnificent scenery within the area, which is abundantly watered, and contains some picturesque waterfalls.

Millaa Millaa has long been famous for the enormous girth of its timbers. From some of the pine logs as much as 14,000 feet of the best timber has been obtained. The girth and height of cedars grown in this corner of the Tableland may be judged by one long preserved as a feature of the landscape, close to the railway line, for which £365 was offered as it stood.

The completion of the railway to Millaa Millaa brought the Johnstone River line to a point at which it will be seventeen miles distant from the present terminus of the Cairns Railway at Ravenshoe. Ultimately, no doubt, all the nearer railways will be linked up, greatly to the advantage of closer settlement and production.



HERBERTON, N.Q.

Tableland Production Epitomised.

Before carrying these particulars to a stage at which they apply to areas beyond the Atherton Tableland, a few more facts may be epitomised usefully.

The driest season of the year there is from August to November; the wettest from January to March. In the rainy season heavy stocking is required to keep down the grass, and it is the special time for fattening the well-developed "poddies," whose ultimate destination is the beef market. The Illawarra breed is most in favour with the farmers, because it produces beefers as well as milkers.

Almost every farm has its own running stream.

The average annual rainfall is nearly 100 inches. The highest summer temperature is 82 degrees, but that degree of heat seldom is experienced.

Naturally, the value of land has increased under closer settlement, but there remains unimproved land quite as rich in soil and timbers as that which now bears a closely settled and prosperous population.

The nearness of the area to cataracts of such tremendous force as that of the Tully Falls suggests that in the not distant future an extensive electrification scheme may be applied in connection with transport facilities, machinery, and illumination.

Purcell's Farm, near Atherton township, has been cultivated for thirty years, yet its soil does not seem to have lost a fraction of its richness. Usually the grass crop, whether it be *paspalum*, *rhodes*, or *panicum muticum*, suffices, and the original experiments in the cultivation of such fodder crops as lucerne, field peas, Mauritius beans, and cow-cane have been largely discontinued for the reason that they were unnecessary.

It is noticeable that most of the well-established farmers in the locality originally came from dairying districts of New South Wales, and all are so well content with their income and surroundings that they have determined to make North Queensland their permanent abiding-place.

North Queensland—Australia's Richest Territory.

On to Herberton.

Shortly after leaving Atherton the main Cairns Railway passes on over very steeply rising ground to Herberton, a famous tin and copper mining town. What the route loses in fertility is atoned for by the totally different character of the scenery, which is rugged but still grassy. The rocks in the cuttings indicate metalliferousness.

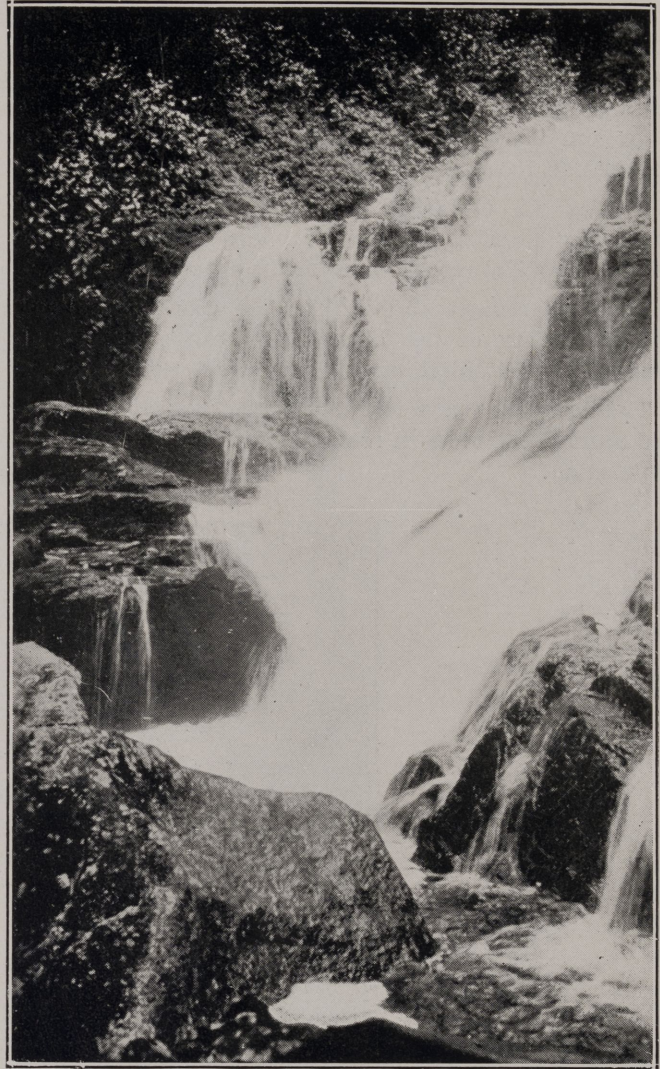
As the ranges are climbed Atherton township and the rich tableland can be gazed down upon in all their picturesqueness.

The line is zig-zag and overlooks the tops of tall forests.

At one stage the train pauses directly beside a waterfall, and the cool breath of the spray affects the atmosphere. Passengers enjoy the exquisite coolness while the boiler receives its necessary water supply. There are some charming glimpses of scenery.



"THE CRATER," $9\frac{1}{2}$ MILES FROM HERBERTON.



FALLS ON THE UPPER BARRON, NEAR HERBERTON.

Near Herberton the Wild River comes into view. This stream passes alongside the town, and adds much to the picturesqueness of the site. It usually is a clear, shallow stream, running talkatively, but at times it develops into a roaring torrent. A weir associated with the town water supply is one of its artificial features. It has a clean sandy bed, and its clear pools are very inviting. The altitude of Herberton is nearly 3,000 ft., and near to it are settled places which have an altitude of nearly 4,000 ft.

The climate is noted for its invigorating quality. The young people are rosy-cheeked; the old full of vigorous enjoyment of life.

North Queensland—Australia's Richest Territory.

Herberton has become a favourite locality for students, and boarding-schools are among its special features. The site really consists of a series of hills forming part of a range. Pretty creeks run through it to join the river, and to add the colour of their streamside foliage.

A site so elevated, so perfectly drained, and ordinarily so crisp in its atmosphere seems specially designed by Nature for sanatoria purposes.

The Department of Public Instruction recognised the suitability of the climate for the purposes of students by establishing a high school there.

The town has a weekly paper, a school of arts, and most of the modern requirements of an intelligent population.

stant passage of the packhorses formed a good dray road to Port Douglas. The road was wildly beautiful, and the life of the carriers was not without adventure.

At the date at which these particulars were compiled, Mr. John Newell, one of the adventurous prospectors interested in the first mining lease, was still residing in Herberton, and was actively engaged in the management of several business concerns.

Although so many years have elapsed since tin-mining operations began in Herberton, they still are profitable, but the main output of metals is represented by copper.

In a recent year the value of tin discovered in the mining district under the charge of the Warden at Herberton was £85,364.



MILLSTREAM FALLS, NEAR RAVENSHOE, N.Q.

History of the Field.

The history of the Herberton District as a mining field began in 1880, when the first notice was written of the lease of the freehold for tin, according to the provisions of the Mining Act then in existence. The rush to the field set in in 1883, and was at its highest during the succeeding seven years. There was then no railway over the Coastal Range, and the tin was despatched to Port Douglas by a rough bush track, as that port was more readily accessible than Cairns. Hundreds of horses were used to carry the packs, and the owners of the pack teams found their occupation very profitable. In a few years' time the con-

Other metals plentifully discovered in the locality are silver and lead.

Some of the most important copper mines are situated on the outskirts of the town, and can be reached within the compass of a short walk.

Though its "roaring" days are over, Herberton still is a brisk business town, but the miners now there are domesticated persons, mindful of their homes and families, and preferably located permanently rather than nomadically.

In 1885 the battery at Irvinebank commenced crushing, chiefly on ore from the Great Southern

North Queensland—Australia's Richest Territory.

Mine. Irvinebank quickly became an important centre, and has remained so ever since. It is reached by a wildly beautiful driving road from Herberton.

Other Metals.

There has been a large copper output of the Herberton Gold and Mineral Field. Quantities of

Silver-lead and molybdenite workings also had a busy history.

Alluvial gold is still won from some portions of the field, and there are also fair gold returns from crushed ore.

The extent of the Herberton Gold and Mineral Field is 6,545 square miles, but most of the par-



TULLY FALLS, NEAR RAVENSHOE, N.Q.

rich copper were discovered in what was regarded as a worked-out copper belt. A great producer was the Empress Mine, situated $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles north-west of Herberton, and there are several others.

The chief wolfram mine in the Herberton mining district is at Mount Carbine.

Particulars here supplied apply to localities not far removed from the town of Herberton, which is the headquarters of the mining warden, mining inspectors, &c.

The soil of the Herberton Range is well suited for orchards. Apples, pears, and other fruits usually

North Queensland—Australia's Richest Territory.

associated with non-tropical climates take kindly to the high altitude. Herberton, with its tonic air, its rich present and certain future, seems to have permanently a prominent place in Queensland's progress.

Nature's Healing.

North Queenslanders can find on the eucalyptus-clothed heights at Herberton a thoroughly revivifying atmosphere. At Watsonville, which is only a few miles away, the range rises still higher, and one portion of it, Mount Stewart's Head, reaches a height of 4,400 ft. above the sea.

Nine and a-half miles from Herberton is "The Crater," a strange geological phenomenon representing a sheer drop of a lighter rock stratum from the surrounding main granite formation. To the surface of the water (contained therein) from the lowest point of the lip of "The Crater" is 170 ft., and from this surface a plumb line at 590 ft. failed to sound bottom. The diameter is 200 ft., with a surface extent of one acre.

Ravenshoe.

The railway extends beyond Herberton into the richly-timbered lands of Ravenshoe. Those lands, too, are rich in streams and waterfalls. They are both a botanist's delight and an artist's joy. The Millstream and Tully River, both of which are close to the end of the railway, have, as well as their much-photographed main falls, a series of smaller falls very picturesque in character.

The Millstream Falls.

The Millstream Falls, 4 miles distant, are the widest in Australia, and their surrounding topography is of a character to permit of their being viewed at very close quarters.

The Tully Falls.

The Tully Falls, 17 miles by road, are as fine as the Barron Falls. At present they are surrounded by absolute wildness, but can be reached by driving or riding parties. Their water power is so enormous that it could be applied to the electrification of the whole district, and it would be invaluable as a means of driving manufacturers' machinery.

Other Features.

Motoring and riding parties can be arranged in Ravenshoe, and kangaroo hunting is a pastime of the more open valleys. Outdoor recreation is provided in an ideal nine-hole golf-course, in tennis courts, and in a splendid swimming pool, having a width of 33½ yards and good depth, in the Millstream. Good accommodation is provided at Gordon's Club Hotel.

In the great timber belt from which so much wealth in wood has been won, some of the noblest trees still stand in their stately grandeur of trunk and crown. The largest kauri pines in the Southern Hemisphere are in these scrubs. Their girth is so great that when quoted it seems almost fabulous. On the road to Evelyn—a great pastoral tableland in the forest area—there is a coach drive through the centre of an old and hollow pine.

In the timber forest reserves, cedar, maple, white beech, kauri, &c., may be seen in company with huge parasitic ferns.

Large quantities of valuable timber are trucked in crude form from Ravenshoe Railway Station, and in addition many logs are sawn at local mills.

The land has high agricultural value, and as it is cleared it is utilised for mixed farming. Fruit grows finely, and flower gardens are lovely beyond description.

On the Evelyn Tableland there is excellent soil, which assuredly eventually will come under the transforming influence of a closely settled population.

Twenty-two miles from Ravenshoe are the Innot Hot Springs, which have not yet been widely tested, but which have much curative value.

It may truly be said that this exceedingly rich and beautiful district still is almost wholly undeveloped. What a field for young men of industrious disposition and home-making inclinations!

The Chillagoe Line.

The branch railway, which leaves Mareeba and passes westward through a drier area than any with which these pages hitherto have been associated, is not classed as a scenic route, yet it has, for a considerable portion of its way, spectacular interest which is entirely its own. It was built, with the consent of Parliament, and under certain conditions

North Queensland—Australia's Richest Territory.

of agreement, by the Chillagoe Railway and Mining Company for the purpose of conveying ore and metals, and with a view to providing for the transport of general goods and passengers. For many years it had a very busy career, and finally was purchased by the State Government, which also acquired proprietorship of the mines and smelting-works.

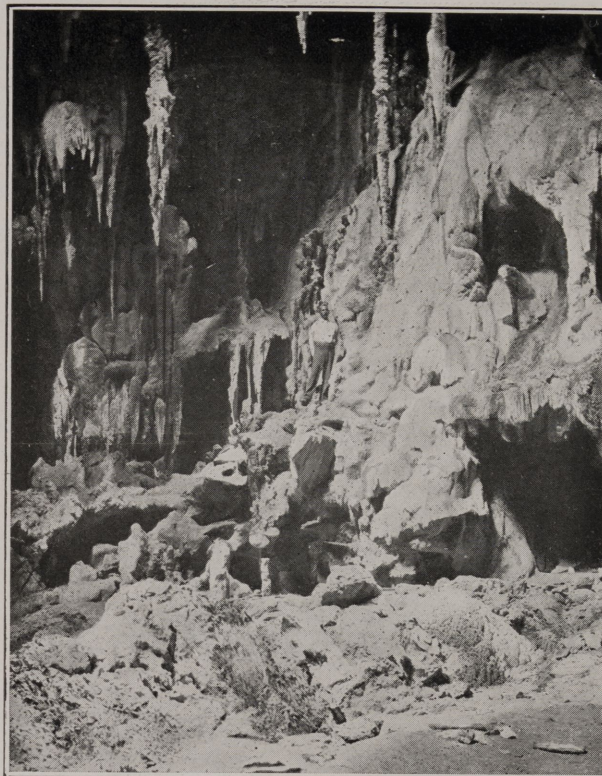
Very soon after leaving Mareeba a marked difference is noted in the character of the country.

The Walsh River is crossed, and later its course is watched from high above as the line zigzags over the Range.

As the town of Chillagoe is neared very striking limestone formations are seen. They are of a character totally unlike any others in the continent. One of them, "The Castle," fully deserves its name from the fact of its resemblance to a huge castle of ancient architecture. If seen for the first time by moonlight, the illusion is complete, but when seen by daylight the seeming battlemented castle is shown to have a trimming of bottle-trees.



LOG BRIDGE CROSSING, JOHNSTONE RIVER, NEAR MALANDA.



INTERIOR VIEW OF CHILLAGOE CAVES, N.Q.

There are several important branch lines, owned by the State, attached to the Chillagoe Railway. At Dimbulah a railway branches off to Mount Mulligan, an important coalmining centre.

Boonmoo is the next junction station. From there a train goes to Stannary Hills and Irvinebank.

The Mount Garnet Railway branches off at Lappa Junction, and from Alma-Den a long line runs, first south-west and then due west, to Forsayth, which formerly was known as Charlestown.

From the Mitchell River, its northern boundary, to the Einasleigh River, which bounds it on the south, and from its eastern to its western boundary the district is metalliferous.

Whole pages might be filled with statements of the names and characteristic products of the many mining areas in the Chillagoe Gold and Mineral Field, which has an area of 9,740 square miles.

A Scene Unique.

The site of Chillagoe town is level except for the



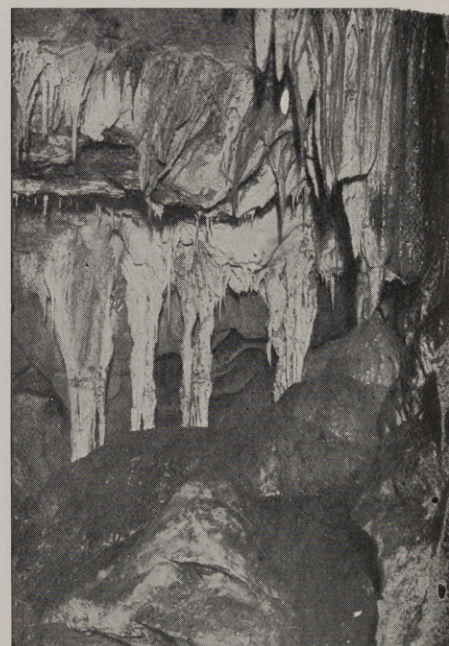
Caves of Chillagoe.

Stalactites and Stalagmites.

There are several caves in the vicinity of Chillagoe, the principal being about three miles distant. Intending visitors should make their arrangements for guide conveyance with the caretaker in Chillagoe.



The most beautiful of the Mungana Caves is only about half a mile from the latter township, and is a wonderfully beautiful sight, the stalagmites and stalactites being perfectly preserved. The Organ Cave is about three miles on the Chillagoe side of Mungana.



ancient limestone formations which are dotted plentifully in and around about it. Most wonderful shapes these are—rising ruggedly and suddenly, and fashioned as though planned according to the artistic ideas of some great architect of past ages.

Chillagoe Creek divides the town. Great trees grow beside its banks.

At all times the aspect of Chillagoe is picturesque. When rain is plentiful it is beautiful.

Seamed and furrowed rocks rise in seeming array of battlement, and sheer escarpments suggest defiance to enemies before the days of long-range cannons.

That wonderful hill of rock which has already been mentioned, is only one of many equally interesting structures.

Valuable minerals have been found in some of these natural castles. Others have been turned out of Nature's workshop as the covering of secret and very beautiful caves.

The Caves of Chillagoe.

Wherever they appear caves of large extent and stalactitic and stalagmitic formation create wonder and awe among thoughtful people and fear among those who are uncivilised. Old aborigines who have remembered tribal traditions have told that the singular shapes of the Chillagoe "castles" invested them with superstitious dread, and although it was believed by the blacks that some of them were vastly hollow, dread of what they might contain prevented any attempts to tap them. The first of the Chillagoe caves to be discovered by white men is that nearest to Chillagoe town. There are others equally beautiful, as the Mungana, Piano, and Organ Caves, and it is believed that there are also many other caves in the locality awaiting exploration.

The most important of the better known caves is three miles from the town of Chillagoe, and is reached by a pleasant driving road. Its outward appearance is ruggedly picturesque. Round about its base trees and shrubs grow thickly. Another plentiful botanical feature associated with it is a very beautiful species of white lily. These lilies crowd about the entrance to the dark and mysterious interior.

In those subterranean chambers and ante-chambers Nature has been at work for countless ages, but, unlike most of the great caves of other countries, the caves of the Chillagoe district do not appear to

have been used either for habitation, refuge, or burial by human beings, or even as a refuge for wild animals. Science has declared the vast antiquity of their deposits, and reverent protectorship should ensure the preservation of those marvels which natural process through countless ages has made.

Most persons know that stalactites are formed from water percolating through rocks and the association of such percolations with bicarbonate of lime. If a line of drops persistently falls from the same place to the floor of a cave, the calcareous deposit descends from the roof, and unites column-like with the deposits on the floor.

The matter of the stalactitic and stalagmitic formations is purest white, beautifully veined, and amazingly heavy. It is both beautiful and freakish in its formations.

Close resemblance in shape to many homely objects in the upper world is noticeable in all the caves.

"Wild shapes for many a strange comparison."

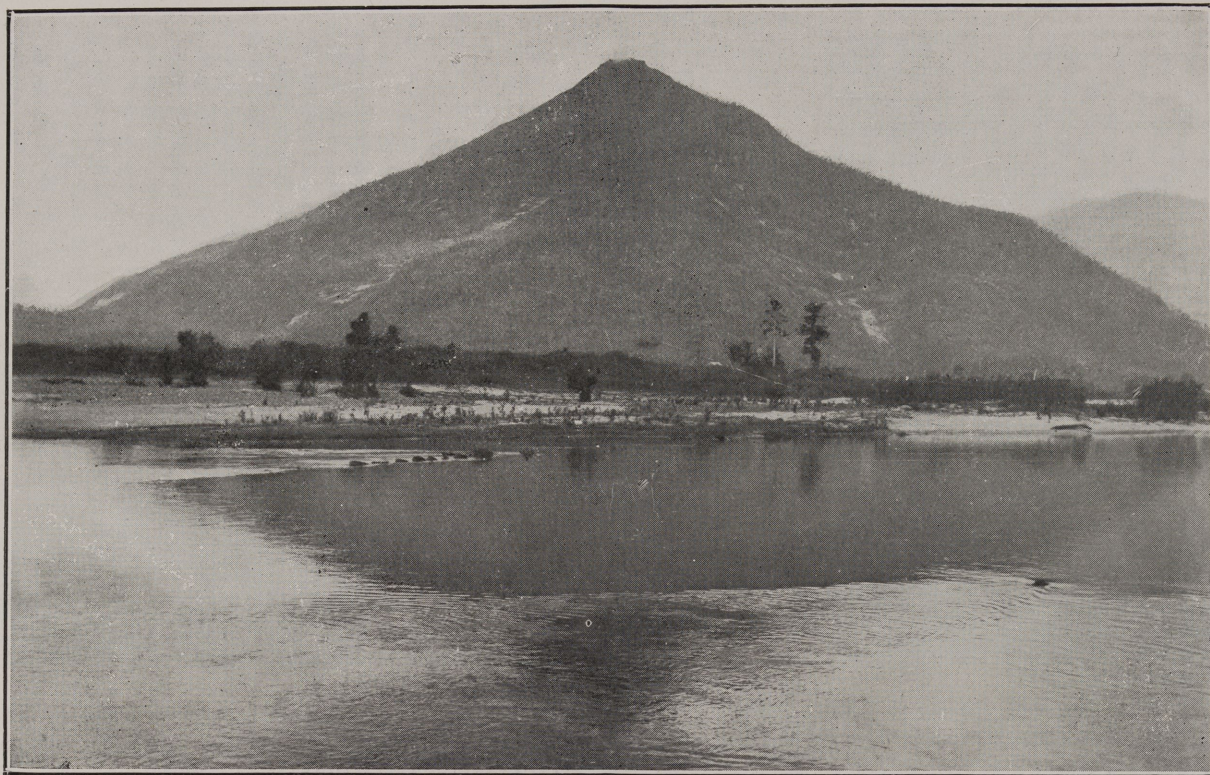
There are, too, stalactites which hang in graceful folds like a piece of fringed and embroidered tapestry of extraordinary delicacy and beauty.

The exquisite natural grotto work in the caves would, in countries more rich in art, set all the great carvers of marble busy in imitation.

In places where stalactitic pillars have joined stalagmitic shelves and formed a row of slender pillars, the pillars if struck emit musical notes of perfect purity and sweetness. With a little practice a person blessed with a good musical ear could produce on them scales and tunes.

There are a very large number of naturally-formed apartments in the Chillagoe Caves, each of which has been named in accordance with its dimensions or most striking formations. The banquet hall, the bridal chamber, the concert room, the cathedral, the jeweller's shop, explain themselves.

So far, because of their distance from cities, only the crudest attempts have been made to make these many and extensive cave apartments easily accessible. Neither has anything been done towards providing them with illumination. If lit up by clear and coloured lights, as are most caves that are recognised as show places, their beauty would be unrivalled. No producer of pantomimic sparkle and splendour has ever contrived any scene so brilliant



THE WALSH PYRAMID (3,022 FT.) AND MULGRAVE RIVER, CAIRNS DISTRICT, N.Q.

and fantastic as almost any of the numerous chambers of the Chillagoe, Mungana, and Organ Caves reveal under the influence of illuminant.

There have been banquets eaten and classic plays performed in the Chillagoe Caves, and never did ancient Greece, with all its architectural and artistic glory provide a more splendid and stately scene of entertainment.

A whole week may be spent in exploring the various caves and studying the area's unique geological features. Guides can be procured in Chillagoe and Mungana, and arrangements made for the conveyance of parties.

Lovers of beauty and students of natural wonders cannot afford to miss these ancient, grand, and enduring monuments of Nature's might and will.

MULGRAVE RIVER AREA.

That portion of the great Coastal Railway formerly known as the Mulgrave Line forms the last section of the railway before it reaches Cairns. It has already had brief reference in this publication.

Though the original branch railway southward from Cairns was undertaken as a business railway, the line really passes through scenes which entitle it to be classed as a scenic route. It goes by rich sugar-lands on the banks of alluvial streams and in valleys at the base of mountains.

Only occasionally and very briefly does it run through spaces in which the less rich character of the soil is indicated by pandanus palms with their sea-green sword-shaped leaves and "paper bark."

The way plunges into rich scrub lands almost immediately after Cairns is left. Well-built homesteads stand amidst a blaze of colour lent by the foliage and flowers of imported species.

Palms of much beauty, including the ancient but reputedly mischievous zamia, are seen in their natural woods.

The beautiful plumes of the coconut palm wave almost ubiquitously beside farmhouses.

The mango trees are densely and grandly foliaged.

North Queensland—Australia's Richest Territory.

On the mountains is the gleam of many a narrow but deep and lively waterfall.

As well as the larger streams which are bridged, many little streams thread their silvery way through verdant lands.

The red soil of the roads makes a brilliant but harmonious contrast.

Field after field of sugar-cane, villages nestling in glens and beside rivers, the tall chimney-stacks of sugar-mills—infrequent but emphatic—and, as a finish to the constant series of scenic settings, a stately range of coastal mountains and its outliers. On those mountains sometimes half a dozen distinct showers may be seen heavily falling. The higher points of the range are nearly always cloud-draped, and during the rainy season there seems there to be a wedding of earth and sky.

The Route Particularised.

Gordonvale is the first town of important size reached outward from Cairns on this line. It is very prettily situated, and its rural surroundings seem to beckon travellers to—

“Where the trailing boughs of the tea-tree droop;
Where the vines hang festooned in curve and loop;
Where lilies float and the tall reeds stoop.”

The Mulgrave Sugar Mill, with its many employees and its proud record of crushings, is at Gordonvale. The mill is a company concern, and it has an increasing number of suppliers.

Its convenient distance from Cairns brings Gordonvale many visitors from the coast, and farmers from round about make it a weekly marketing place. Close at hand the scrub and mountains recede, and there is a broad expanse of cane lands on either side of the line. Beyond the cane, also on each side, are mountains with waterfall tracks. For the greater part these elevations are wooded, but a bold cliff shows here and there. The observation balconies of the train are sure of patronage as this rich area is traversed. The sugarcane takes from nine to twelve months to mature, and it usually can be seen at every stage of growth.

Other sugar-towns and villages are passed, and the ground directly traversed by the railway grows more uneven and more threaded by small, swiftly-running streams before Meerawa and Mount Sophia are reached.

The most outstanding features of Mount Sophia are tree orchids and cone-shaped hills.

At Fishery Creek—a name which is a chapter in itself—the water is crystal clear. Near the creek's banks are hedges which all the year round are covered by blue-blossomed convolvuli.

If there are on the train well-informed residents of the locality, they may easily be persuaded to tell of botanical features which are not assertive on the edges of the scrub that again has become a companion of the way. They may tell of wild nuts and edible berries, the quandong, with its pleasant sourness and its naturally carved stone; of the peculiarity which makes the fruit of the wild banana sweetly seedy and nothing more; of the pleasant cordial that can be made from wild raspberries, and their acceptability in their raw state in conjunction with sugar and cream.

As Bellenden Ker and Bartle Frere are neared in their majestic calm, there comes, too, perhaps, full realisation of the meaning of that biblical poet who declared that—

“The mountains shall bring peace to the people.”

Unseen on the other side of those grand hills the surf lazily laps or briskly assaults white beaches, but on the Mulgrave line side of the range an air of intense quiet is the usually prevailing feature. They are not of that class of mountain sharply turreted and briskly peaked which typify some of Australia's far-stretching mountain ranges. Dark woods and shrubs clothe them up to their lofty summits, and this pleasant disguise gives them a more gently appealing class of beauty; this, too, in spite of Bellenden Ker's cloudy exaltation to a height of 5,181 feet.

Bellenden Ker has three prominent peaks, each of which offers an invitation, not too difficult of acceptance, to ambitious climbers. Whatever the errand which takes travellers along this route, joy in the highest mountains of North Queensland is the result.

Babinda.

Babinda, a town, whose business activities may be said to have a foundation in the cultivation and milling of sugar-cane, lies in a pleasant valley in close proximity to the giants of the Range. Within



RUSSELL RIVER AND BELLENDEN-KER.

its boundaries is the Central Sugar Mill, which has a constantly increasing record in regard to the crushing of sugar.

Most of the growers who supply the Babinda Mill have small, easily handled acreages. Some farms are worked on the co-operative system, both as regards ownership and labour. This is particularly so in the Italian groups, which are markedly contented and prosperous in a field of primary industry in which prosperity is the general rule.

The average yield of virgin cane lands in the locality is from 50 to 60 tons per acre. Further along the line near Moolaba the yield is greater still. This particular belt of sugar land extends from Babinda to the Russell River, and beyond that to Innisfail.

The State Hotel.

The establishment by the State of an "up-to-date" first and second class hotel at Babinda has resulted in the joint establishment of much good order and comfort. The hotel is under the control of a manager

who runs it in accordance with rules designed to make for sobriety in the township and the utmost comfort for those patrons who use the hotel for the purposes, casual or permanent, of board and lodging. Substantially but gracefully built, the handsome structure has in its architectural plan every requirement of space and air demanded by a tropical climate. Very wide verandahs and equally wide balconies ceiled with timber surround the building, and are furnished plentifully with canvas chairs. There are several spacious lounges tastefully furnished, and supplied with the necessities for rest and recreation. A large lounge downstairs is built partly on the open-air principal, and is furnished with a temperance bar.

Drawing and smoke rooms, pianos, one of which is fitted with a piano-player, billiard room, and the nucleus of a library offer entertainment and sociality.

Both dining-rooms are large and airy, and in the second-class dining-room, as in the first, the appointments and service are refined in character.

North Queensland—Australia's Richest Territory.

Its own electric-lighting plant, a hot-water service, aerated water plant, and septic tank are included in the establishment's system of service.

The furnishings of the hotel were entirely supplied by two establishments in Cairns, and no better recommendation for the quality of the furniture turned out of their factories could be seen anywhere. The beautiful Queensland timbers only were used, and an inspection of bedroom and other furniture at the State Hotel is a fine advertisement of the State's timber values.

The superior advantages offered by the hotel have made it extremely popular with visitors who have a taste for the comforts of life in association with peace, order, and intelligent efforts towards social reform.

On Bartle Frere, only a short distance from Babinda, there are important and beautiful waterfalls which can be reached by picnic parties.

The roads round about are good for riding or driving, and the industry and production of the farms may be studied at close quarters.

Visitors who are sufficiently active to climb Bartle Frere or the nearer peak of Bellenden Ker will see a view on either side so magnificent as to be unparalleled in tropical scenery anywhere. Only hardy climbers, prepared to camp out if necessary, should try to gain such heights, but there are many less elevated hills the ascent of which will provide beautiful outlooks and exercise not too strenuous.

Though its summer nights are pleasantly cool, the temperature of Babinda in winter has that pleasant



THE STATE HOTEL, BABINDA, N.Q.

Walks and Excursions.

Its nearness to the mountain range provides Babinda with many pleasant walks. One of the prettiest leads in about fifteen minutes to the mountain stream and waterfall from which the town's delightfully pure water supply is obtained.

There in a pleasant gorge is "Psyche's Pool" beside a little weir. Round about it are giant fern trees, handsome ginger plants, and a score of other beautifully foliaged species. The water is so clear and cool that all who see it are impelled to stop and drink. It is the same water that runs from the taps at the State hotel, and which is put to all the liquid requirements of the sugar mill. There are hundreds of similar mountain-side streams in this range which could similarly serve as town water supplies.

degree of warmth which visitors from the South go far to find in association with interesting surroundings.

Deep and productive soil under dense cultivation lies beside the way from Babinda to Moolaba. Beyond Moolaba lies the Russell River with its edges of deep alluvial soil. Farther on is the great sugar district of Innisfail, which already has been described.

Local Publicity.

A booklet published in Cairns furnishes information concerning motor-car trips to the Mulgrave area and the sugar-mills.

Port Douglas.

An older port than Cairns is Port Douglas, which is farther North. In the years prior to the construc-

tion of the railway from Cairns over the Range there was a constant stream of pack-horse teams and later of bullock-drays over the steeps from Herber-ton to the older port. The town sprang up importantly and was a busy shipping place.

For a number of years after Cairns, as a railway terminus, became an important port, the older town suffered some decadence, but latterly it has been rediscovered as a place of beauty and superior natural advantages. Always since the adjacent district of Mossman became a large and prosperous sugar-growing area, Port Douglas has shipped sugar importantly, the product being conveyed to the port by a tramway freight and passenger service controlled by the Douglas Shire Council.

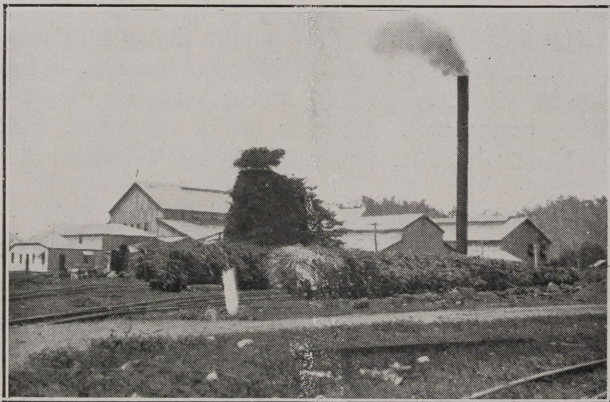
The recent development of the Daintree River lands, to which Port Douglas is the natural outlet, also has brightened up the outlook.

Means of Communication.

The trip from Cairns to Port Douglas by water occupies about four hours, and may be made in the large, speedy, motor launch "Malanda," which conveys the mails, or, if preferred, passengers may travel by the s.s. "Lass o' Gowrie" on her weekly trip from Townsville and Cairns.

Another passenger and mails route is overland from Cairns by rail to Mount Molloy, thence by mail motor-car across Port Douglas Range and by the Mowbray River.

Eventually, no doubt, there will be complete over-land railway connection.



BABINDA SUGAR-MILL, N.Q.



SPRING CREEK FALLS, MOWBRAY DISTRICT, N.Q.

The Town And Its Attractions.

Seen from the sea after the boat has passed a rocky headland, Port Douglas has a very attractive aspect. Streets and residences and Government buildings are backed by the vivid green of Flagstaff Hill. Tall coconut palms wave in the breeze, and the heavy varicoloured foliage of other trees adds to the pleasing effect.

Mossman Street, running along the foot of Flagstaff Hill, is broad and shaded.

Close at hand is the beach—one of the most beautiful in Australia. Near it are groves of palms, and immediately behind it is the District Hospital, an institution noted for the swift recovery of patients by the aid of an unseen but ever-present master physician—the sea breeze.

There are bathing-houses at the beach, which is several miles long and is at all times safe for bathers. It has, too, other uses than those associated with surfing.

In the days of the bullock-team, prior to the construction of what is now known as "The Red Road," wagons passed along several miles of this firm, crescent-shaped beach on their way to the Hinter-

North Queensland—Australia's Richest Territory.

land. Now one of its pleasant uses is as a race-course, at which some of the district race-meetings are held, the raised banks forming a natural grandstand.

Port Douglas is built on a peninsula four miles in length, and fairly flat, except for its high and boldly outlined headland. To west, north, and south high mountains seem to hold it in a semicircle.

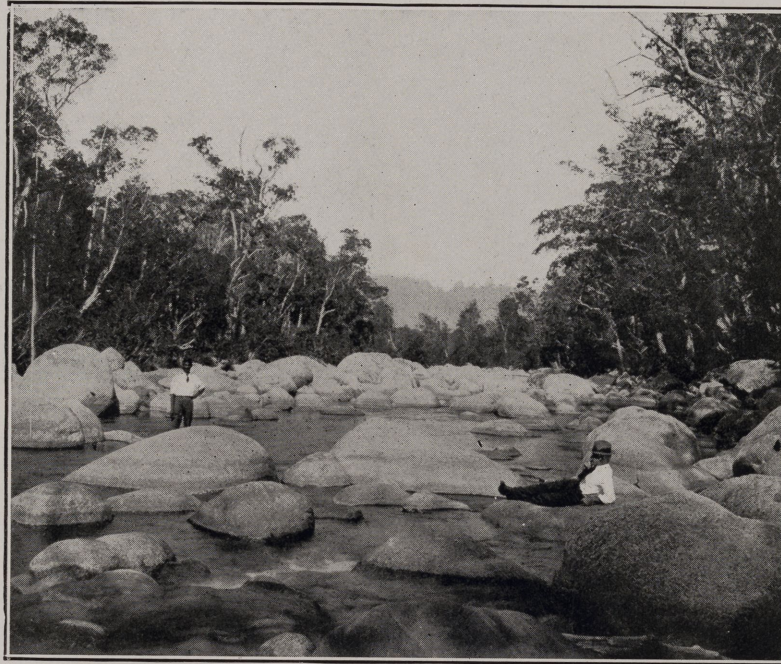
The upper portion of Flagstaff Hill is reserved for park purposes, and from that point of vantage a beautiful panoramic view of town, port, sea, beach, and surroundings is obtained.

Another trip, up the Daintree River and Bailey's Creek, goes by beauty all the way.

All about is a land of streams and waterfalls. In the Mowbray River are falls almost equal in height to the famous Barron Falls.

Fruit And Other Things.

As well as sugar the district produces citrus fruits, bananas, pineapples, papaws, mangoes, tomatoes, tobacco, cotton, coffee, cocoa, rubber, sisal hemp, cinnamon, grape-fruit, &c., but most of these crops



THE GORGE, MOSSMAN, N.Q.

In Dickson's Inlet—the arm of the sea through which entry into the port is made—are some very deep stretches of water, and it is considered that scientific dredging would make it a good deep-sea port.

It is a convenient centre from which to make excursions to the Great Barrier Reef and Low Woody lighthouse, where beautiful formations of pink and white coral may be seen, and where innocent fish await hook and line.

Drives to the Mowbray River settlement take visitors into a scene as beautiful as any that the art of cinema photography has ever portrayed.

have only been carried as far as successful experiment without any extension into the field of commerce.

There is good fishing in the Mowbray River and sometimes good "alligator shooting" as a variation.

Mossman.

The busy and beautiful sugar-growing centre, Mossman, is fourteen miles from Port Douglas. The way to it, either by driving-road or by the tramway, has all the typical beauty of the Johnstone River and Mulgrave River districts, previously described in this book.

North Queensland—Australia's Richest Territory.

↓ *White Cliffs*

↓ *Black Mt*



PORT DOUGLAS BEACH, N.Q.

Streams, clear as crystal and beautifully bordered with native growths, red-roofed homesteads surrounded by magnificent gardens, attendant mountains, palms, and poinsettia with its flame.

Rapid extension of sugar cultivation soon made mills of small capacity inadequate, and to-day the directors of Mossman Central Mill, a co-operative concern, find it necessary to increase the capacity of the mill, which in twelve years of operations crushed 757,000 tons of cane, made 88,000 tons of sugar worth £917,000, and distributed £917,000 among farmers. In addition to that sum the growers also received over £60,000 in bounty from the Federal authorities.

There is cane everywhere round about, only the higher hills and the deepest gorges retaining their original covering. A wonderfully lovely background is made by those noble hills, highest of which is Demi Mountain, a landmark known to sea-travellers northwards.

With its increased capacity and a new evaporating plant the Mossman mill will be able to treat 6,000 tons of cane per week.

The mill has a network of narrow-gauge tramways, ever extending as new land comes under sugar cultivation.

Many of the present-day farmers formerly were workers for wages in the fields or the mill.

There are some well-established and extensive farms which came into existence under an earlier era of industry, and are still much more extensive in acreage than the typical sugar farm of to-day. With their surroundings of mango groves and pretty gardens these have an older touch which increases their charm. The old order has gone, but there is prosperity and contentment in the new.

Quiet old plantations miles distant from corporate limits and the heart of things in Mossman are beautiful and still intensely productive. Mango Park, Drum Sara, and The Cedars are old plantations, distinctive and well worth a peep.



VIEW IN THE MOSSMAN DISTRICT, N.Q.

There are still good cane lands awaiting development near Mossman, and it is expected that sugar cultivation will be a feature of settlement on the lower Daintree lands.

Almost everyone who goes to reside at Mossman comes under the spell of sugar-cane. One grower is a clergyman who has lived there for a number of years.

Much of the future development rests on tramway connection with the Upper Daintree River by the extension of the existing line.

Mossman is the northern outpost of the Queensland sugar-growing area, but life there is healthily lived at all times and every form of outdoor recreation is engaged in.

Local Features.

The nearest ocean beach to Mossman is several miles away. It is backed by coconut palms in extensive groves, and is beautiful, extensive, and safe. There is a comfortable rest home for boarders there, associated with a good orchard and good dairy cows.

Motor-cars with careful drivers can be hired in Mossman to convey visitors to interesting scenes.

Mossman people are very proud of their ambulance centre, which is one of the best equipped in the State.

The Mossman School of Arts has a good lending library and a free reading-room.

There are good public halls and a fine moving-picture theatre.

As Mossman is a busy business town, arrangements for accommodation should be made beforehand.

Daintree Tableland.

Present approach to the Daintree Tableland is by motor launch from Port Douglas. The trip of twelve miles across the bay is delightful, and affords lovely views of the mainland. On the right the view includes the coral island from which Low Island lighthouse rises like a lofty monument.

North Queensland—Australia's Richest Territory.

The entrance to the Daintree River across the bar is half a mile wide. Thirteen miles further up at the little butter factory the river has narrowed to ten chains. Its banks are covered with tropical jungle in which palms, tassel ferns (a very beautiful variety of that order of plants), staghorn and bird's nest ferns are conspicuous.

Mount Alexander (4,500 ft.) looks down, wearing a cap of white cloud.

Tidal waters are left behind as the launch goes higher up the stream. Agricultural settlement and land in process of clearing come into view, after a portion of the stream at which the hills with their green tangle of vine and tree come right to the waters edge has been passed.

Closer settlement activities centre on dairying. On the cleared areas panicum grass grows at its highest degree of density. High-class dairy herds—two beasts to the acre—placidly pasture, and contentedly grunting pigs fatten towards their final day, heedless of the idyllic character of their surroundings.

It is an elevated dairying area within a coastal area—something of an anomaly.

The small but quite modern butter factory established by the Daintree River Development Company is the most northern butter factory in Australia, but the butter is equal in quality to the best made in the South.

When the Mossman Tramway system is extended to Daintree progress will quicken its now steady pace, and the areas suitable for settlement but at present unsettled will carry a prosperous population.

Mr. Osbourne, senr., who has resided on the Daintree River for forty years has a beautiful home built of local timbers—cedar, maple, and silky oak—each of which are cabinet-making timbers which are not yet all "cut out." Mr. Osbourne has a magnificent collection of orchids, some of which—very rare specimens—were carried from the top of Mount Alexander.

There are always cool nights and mornings at Daintree Tableland—great assets to cream production.

Anyone wishing to explore the locality can secure accommodation at the home of Mr. Osbourne, senr.

Farms near at hand are fitted with milking-machines and other up-to-date appliances.

A walk of about a mile brings pedestrians to Newey's Falls, which rush from a dense scrub and

drop 80 ft. into a clear pool, framed on either side by jungle-covered hills.

Very active pedestrians may essay a climb to the top of Mount Alexander, where they will find air as bracing as that of the Blue Mountains of New South Wales.

Fishing, boating, and picnicking will enable visitors to spend a pleasant holiday. And though harmless and beautiful insect life is there, there are no mosquitoes or sandflies.

Future settlers will receive the benefit of the organisation of the Daintree Development Company, which has demonstrated much enterprise and enthusiasm in getting experienced dairy-farmers from the Atherton Tableland to start afresh at Daintree, and in the establishment of the butter factory.

A main road and telephone facilities have been promised for the area.

Last but not least in relation to this land of promise it may be told that fifty miles from the mouth of the Daintree there still are giant cedars in abundance.

From the natural history point of view the fact that tree-climbing kangaroos still are frequent features of the Daintree River scrub is perhaps the most striking item.

Wild pigs, an occasional cassowary, turkeys, and scrub pigeons also frequent its wildness.

Over "The Bump."

The alternative route from Port Douglas and Mossman to Cairns by direct route over the Range to Mount Molloy already has been mentioned. The means of conveyance is a nine-seater Cadillac car carrying mails, passengers, and luggage. In the palmy days of Croydon goldfield, a period subsequent to that in which the horse-pack teams made the track, Cobb and Co.'s coaches made regular trips over this route—a fact almost inconceivable to those who note the primitiveness of the road to-day and who are inclined to regard passage over it by motor-car as an experience of a thrilling sort.

When the trip is taken from the Mossman and Port Douglas end it leads at first through farms and the charming Mowbray River scenery. Beyond the Mowbray settlement it takes its first steep rise, a rise so steep that it is necessary to attach a stout horse team to pull the car to an altitude of 600 feet.

North Queensland—Australia's Richest Territory.

↓ *Pt Douglas*



VIEW FROM "THE BUMP," OVERLOOKING THE VALLEY OF THE MOWBRAY, N.Q.

The next grade is much more easily accomplished, and a short distance up it a wonderful scene awaits. Looking down over a sheer drop of vast depth those who have made the ascent, and who at this point make a thrilling pause, see spread below a panoramic view of the way by which they came to the ascent. The scene is the valley of the Mowbray, with the silvery, shining river winding, serpentine fashion, through green fields and past picturesque homesteads, to the sea.

On either side of this lovely river valley, enclosing it protectingly, are lofty mountains, densely covered with dark-green timbers, and carrying many of those silvery streaks which each proclaim a lively waterfall.

In the panorama is seen the meeting of silvery river and deep blue sea. Beyond, at low tide, appears the coral reef, showing from this distance in shades of brown. Low Woody lighthouse is plainly seen.

Light and shade make all the difference to this scene, giving it changed but always gloriously beauti-

ful aspects. It rivals in beauty the celebrated Barron Valley as seen from Cairns Railway, if indeed in its more inclusive marine view it does not outrival it.

If the trip is taken from the Mount Molloy end, the view, then glimpsed at the beginning of the descent instead of after an ascent, is even more suddenly startling and enthralling.

There is interesting scenery all the way to Mount Molloy, a mining township associated with pleasant pastures and dairying. From Mount Molloy travel is by railway to Mareeba, thence to Cairns or by any of the branching routes just as fancy decides.

NORTHERN SUGAR PRODUCTION.

Epitomised Facts.

The nine sugar-mills north of Townsville manufacture nearly as much sugar as the twenty-five mills south of that centre.

To meet expansion of sugar-growing in the Banyan and Tully districts a new mill has been erected at Tully.

North Queensland—Australia's Richest Territory.

Some of the existing mills find it necessary to increase their milling capacity as a result of increased acreage coming under crop.

The Northern Sugar Experiment Station is on the South Johnstone River near Innisfail. It has an area of 30 acres. There many varieties of cane are cultivated under various conditions, and information is supplied to farmers.

The most successful soldier settlement in Australia is the sugar-producing settlement at El Arish, near Innisfail. There have been no failures there, and eighty farms have been established.

Final Words.

Never was material for official publicity matter gathered in districts more richly endowed by Nature than those here particularised and described, and most of which have their important seaport centre at Cairns. Their development so far has been that which was most easily and superficially accomplishable, and the statement sometimes made—"their resources have only been scratched"—has actual truth to recommend it to serious consideration. Something is known and is constantly demonstrated of what may be done with the scrub soil, but to the forest lands science has not been applied at all, and to the mineral areas it has been applied but superficially. In years to come—the sooner the better for Queensland and Australia generally—it will surely happen that great manufacturing industries in which natural and cultivated products are

utilised will arise in some of the districts here traversed in print. The harnessing of waterfalls for the purpose of providing electric power will make the beginning of a new era of development with an incidental inrush of population.

When it is better realised that there are in North Queensland elevated undulating tablelands which possess a temperate climate, super-rich soil, and a certain rainfall, family men who have conceived a quite unreasonable dread of the tropics will not hesitate to seek fair fortune there.

When it is known that it possesses lofty mountain sites perfectly suited for sanatoria, it will be understood that residents can very economically effect recuperative change of air from the level coastal lands.

Those, too, who desire that their life and labours shall not divorce them from beautiful landscapes there will find feasts for the eye round about their daily way, and soon will grant that inclination prompted wisely when it led them through island-studded straits and channels, surpassingly beautiful to novitiate eyes, to North Queensland, where there is room and ample activity, amply repaid, for all.

The completion of the great coastal railway has brought the North much nearer. The land journey may be conveniently and interestingly broken to prevent weariness, and those to whom the sea brings uneasiness need suffer no timid qualms in regard to undertaking the land journey at any time of the year.



By Authority: ANTHONY JAMES CUMMING, Government Printer, Brisbane.

John Oxley Library

P 919.436 NOR

North Queensland : Australia's richest
territory fertile land and beauty spots /
compiled and issued by the Queensland
69030

61559407

VOYAGER ITEM



61559407

JO-12775593-00-001

*Mr Alexander
1200*

SKETCH MAP OF THE CAIRNS DISTRICT

SHOWING RAILWAYS

Scale: 17 Miles to an inch.

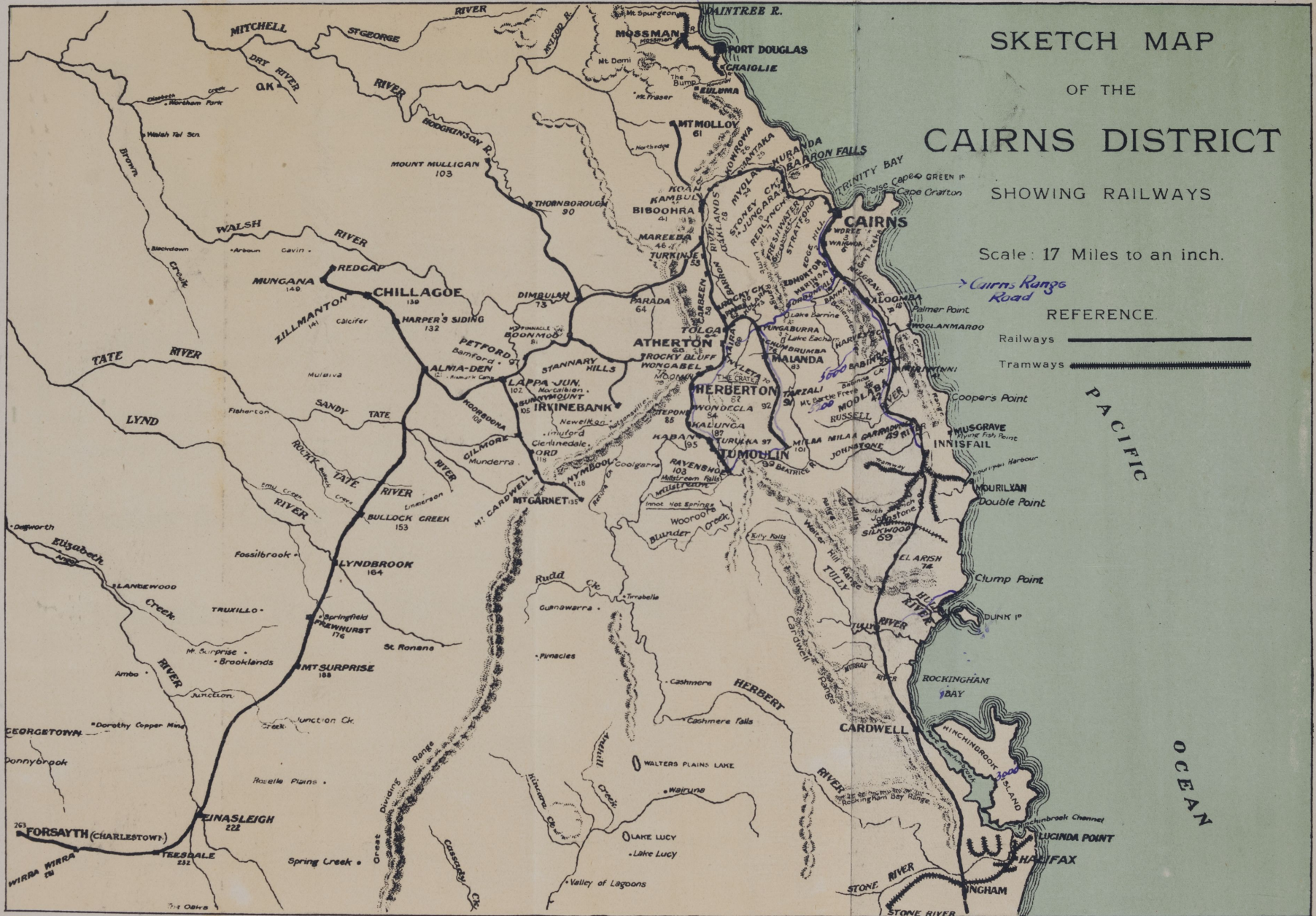
REFERENCE.

Railways

Tramways

PACIFIC

OCEAN



Cairns-Port Douglas-Cooktown Fast Mail Service

conducted by the

Twin-Screw Motor Launch "MALANDA"

Length, 90 ft. Speed, 12 knots. Capacity, 250 passengers

Leave Cairns	- 7:0 a.m. Tuesday	Leave Cooktown	- 6:30 a.m. Thursday
Arrive Port Douglas	10:30 a.m. "	Arrive Port Douglas	12:0 noon "
Leave Port Douglas	11:0 a.m. "	Leave Port Douglas	1:0 p.m. "
Arrive Cooktown	4:30 p.m. "	Arrive Cairns	- 4:30 p.m. "

Fares—Cairns to Port Douglas 25/- Single; Return (Tourist) 40/-

Cairns to Cooktown - 60/- Single; Return (Tourist) 95/-

SUNDAY EXCURSIONS to GREEN ISLAND and TURTLE BAY
(alternately), as tides permit. Return Fares 5/-

Visitors to Cairns—

should not fail to call at the

Queensland Tourist Bureau Branch Office
Abbott Street, Cairns



Full information supplied relative
to Local Trips and Tours to the
Cairns Hinterland

NORTH QUEENSLAND

NORTH QUEENSLAND

Its Fertile Lands
and Beauty Spots
Australia's Richest Territory

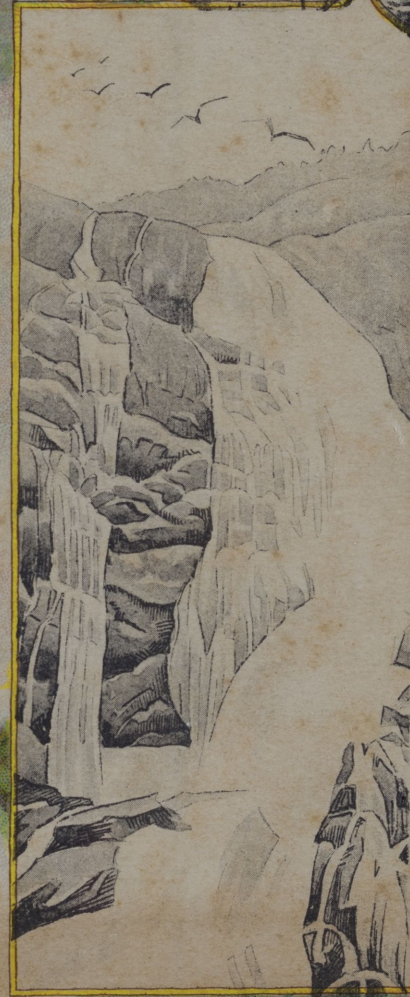
BARRON
FALLS



NORTH QUEENSLAND CANE



SURPRISE
CREEK BRIDGE



TULLY FALLS

THE WINTER
PARADISE
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH

COMPILED & ISSUED BY THE
QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT
TOURIST BUREAU
EDWARD & ANN STS
BRISBANE